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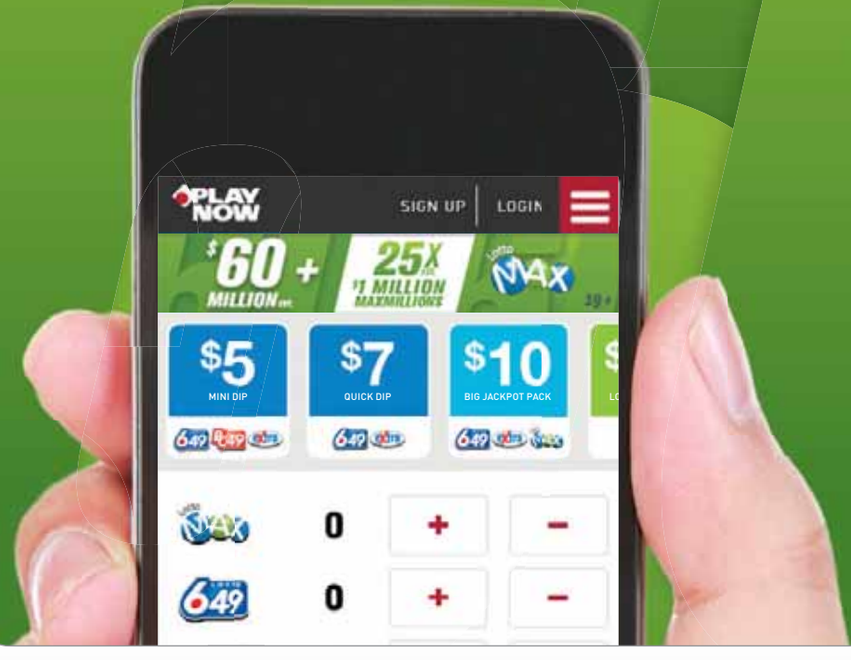

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BRANCHING OUT

UBC'S URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM AIMS TO SAVE TREES metroNEWS

Taxpayers on the hook for $180K tab

BOONSTOCK

Mounties forced to take over festival security in 2014

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Taxpayers in British Columbia are being saddled with a bill for nearly $180,000 after organizers of the Boonstock Music Festival failed to pay the policing bill for the 2014 music event in Penticton.

Mounties were forced to take over security for the festival after serious health and safety concerns arose after the death of a 23-year-old attendee and a slew of hospitalizations and arrests.

In a statement Thursday, Perry Clark, executive director of policing, security and law enforcement, infrastructure and finance for the Ministry of Justice, said the province has no other options to recover the $176,901 owed by the concert organizer.

"The province was in contact with the promoter a number of times urging payment of their invoice … but no payment was received," he said in a statement. "As Boonstock is now insolvent, the province has no further options to collect."

The RCMP estimated that it spent $250,000 on the event. Clark said the province can only invoice for costs it incurs at the 70 per cent provincial cost-share rate. He said approval of the festival was up to the Penticton Indian Band.

Despite efforts from the province urging Boonstock's organizers to provide proof of adequate security, emergency health services, water, waste management or firefighting, Clark said organizers failed to do so.

A request for comment from Boonstock president Colin Kobza was not immediately returned.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

This pink diamond could be yours for about $28 million. **World**

IN BRIEF

Small earthquake hits off Vancouver Island

A moderate earthquake has been recorded off the northwest tip of Vancouver Island.

Natural Resources Canada says it hit at 6:48 at Thursday morning, and was centred in the Queen Charlotte fault region, about 200 kilometres west of Port Hardy.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the quake occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres and had a magnitude of 5.5, although Natural Resources Canada lists a preliminary magnitude of 5.7. All experts agree the quake would only have been lightly felt and would not have caused any damage or spawned any damaging waves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. gets in gear on deer

The B.C. government is taking aim at the problem of urban deer.

The Ministry of Forests says the province is committed to creating a Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee and providing up to $100,000 for future urban deer management projects.

Forests Minister Steve Thomson says in a news release that the new committee will ensure the province works together with communities trying to resolve problems caused by habituated deer.

Several municipalities in southern B.C., the Kootenays and Vancouver Island have resorted to culling deer in often controversial programs.

Disagreement over a cull in Invermere led to a bitter and expensive legal battle that ended last year with the B.C. Supreme Court rejecting claims about lack of public consultation from the Invermere Deer Protection Society. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clarification

A photo in the Sept. 23 Metro included a photo of campers being rescued by a helicopter northwest of Pemberton. The full photo credit is: Courtesy of Cameron Bowman/CBowmanPhoto.com

B.C. politicians demand that province tackle rape culture

CONFERENCE

Meeting also dealt with taxes on businesses, auditor office

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Local B.C. politicians will lobby the province in a united voice to create a task force on rape culture, increase corporate tax rates and axe the office of the auditor general for local government.

Politicians passed these resolutions (and many more) at the annual Union of B.C. Municipalities conference on Thursday, where communities as diverse as Surrey and North Saanich band together to try to get the province to pay attention.

The resolution on rape culture stood out from the 150-page list of motions on more run-of-the-mill civic issues such as fees, roads and elections. It advocates for the creation of an intergovernmental task force to try to figure out how to "erase" rape culture from schools, universities and workplaces across Canada.

The motion from the North Central Local Government Association was prompted by the reality that sex assaults are underreported and have low conviction rates. It comes in a year where rape culture on college campuses grabbed headlines across North America. Last year, the University of British Columbia created a strategy to tackle the issue.

Municipalities also called for a one per cent income tax increase for large corporations, with the extra cash going directly to local governments. Local governments are too reliant on property taxes, according to the resolution from Cowichan Valley Regional District, so this would give them another tool to boost revenue.

They also called on the province to scrap a controversial office that audits local governments.

North Saanich council put forward the resolution, saying the office cost taxpayers $5.2 million and was unnecessary because cities were already legally required to balance their books.

Mayor Alice Finall told local politicians gathered at the conference that the province brought in the position in 2012 without consulting with cities and it hasn't shown any obvious value.

But some communities that have been audited spoke in favour of keeping the office, with Sechelt mayor Bruce Milne saying his city benefited tremendously from the process.

The province fired its first auditor, Basia Ruta, in March amid complaints of inefficiency and wasted money and announced Wednesday that accountant Gordon Ruth would take on the role.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hundreds gathered for the annual Union of B.C. Municipalities conference Vancouver Convention Centre and Canada Place in downtown Vancouver this week. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

POLITICS

Tory candidate accused of pandering to 'rednecks'

A star Conservative candidate in British Columbia says she didn't mean to fear-monger when she released a campaign flyer warning Vancouver-area voters of jihadi terrorists.

Former Surrey mayor Dianne Watts has come under fire after her campaign distributed a leaflet promising that a Tory government would fight terrorists both at home and abroad.

The leaflet included a quote from a video released last year by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), saying Canadians should not feel secure in their bedrooms.

"Terrorism is a real and serious issue," said Watts in a statement released Wednesday afternoon. "ISIS has clearly declared Canada as a target for terrorism."

Watts' Liberal counterpart, Judy Higginbotham, said her office was flooded with complaints after the flyer went out to the voters of South Surrey-White Rock.

"This is kind of meant to provoke and evoke and frighten people into voting, or to bring out the rednecks to vote," said Higginbotham, who described first seeing the flyer as "a shock."

Higginbotham served as a Surrey city councillor for 25 years, working alongside Watts during her tenure both as councillor and eventually mayor. She said the Tory campaign tactic of frightening people into voting Conservative strikes her as inconsistent with Watts' character.

The New Democrats reported experiencing a similar negative response from their supporters to the Tory ad.

"Some constituents came into my campaign office mad as hops with the flyer in their hand," said Pixie Hobby, the riding's NDP candidate.

"These kinds of fear tactics unfortunately seem to be a staple of Conservative campaigns."

In her statement, Watts defended her party's stance and said the violence inflicted on the people of Syria and Iraq cannot go unanswered.

"I decided to run for the Conservative party because they are the only party that has taken a stand against this type of violence and terrorism," she said.

Both NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau have rejected military action against ISIL and urged that Canada stick to providing humanitarian aid in the region.

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A Vancouver ad is making the rounds on social media for its brutally honest one-sided account of a relationship's demise. COLOURBOX.COM

Some diamonds aren't forever: Ad

INTERNET

Custom $12K ring shows the value of a good relationship

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

It's a tale as old as time: couple falls in love, $12,000 is spent on an engagement ring, couple breaks up and ring goes up for sale online.

An ad on Craigslist for a custom-made engagement ring for sale in Vancouver is getting attention on social media for its owner's brutally honest one-sided account of a relationship's demise.

In the expletive-laced ad, the gem of a seller, whose gender is unclear in the post, claims to have spent almost a year getting the ring custom-made into a Harry Winston design.

The seller relates buying the princess-cut, 1.02-carat diamond from Spence Diamonds in downtown Vancouver for $9,800 and speding $2,300 at custom jeweller Luksus Diamonds to have it mounted on a platinum band with 32 small diamonds.

But it seems the proposal was not meant to be.

"Here's the problem," the seller wrote. "My … princess of a girlfriend and I decide to go on a trip together in Europe where I'm gonna pop the question and she turns into a nightmare and complains about everything!"

During the vacation, the seller said, the girlfriend complained about the food, the hotels, her feet being sore and her legs being tired.

"So I break up with her on the trip," the tale continued. "I don't care how f----- hot you are, I don't want to hear all that negative s--- on an expensive trip, nor do I wanna hear it for my whole f----- life."

The seller said no less than $12,000 would be accepted for the ring, and that the papers exist to prove the ring's authenticity.

After the post appeared on Reddit, some questioned the ring's steep price tag and whether the ad is a scam.

On Thursday, Amanda Heywood, diamond consultant for Spence Diamonds in downtown Vancouver, said a diamond of that size and quality would retail for $8,532.

However, she said, diamond prices were higher last year and it's possible that the owner did purchase the gem for $9,800.

Metro requested an interview with the seller but was told in a profanity-laced email that they would only participate for a fee.

The price? "$12,000."

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The drought and the windstorm were rough on Vancouver's trees this summer. Two trees fell on this Hastings Sunrise house during the windstorm on Aug. 29, 2015. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

UBC launches urban forestry program

ENVIRONMENT

Trees in cities raise property values, lower energy bills

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Between the sapling-killing drought and the windstorm that knocked old maples to the ground, it's been a tough year for urban trees in the Lower Mainland.

But the University of British Columbia is hoping a new urban forestry bachelor's degree program — the first of its kind in Western Canada — will help save canopies by teaching students how to plan for and manage trees in a city setting.

"There's increasing interest and increasing concern about how to maintain and hopefully expand the urban forest, the canopy we rely on," said Prof. Stephen Sheppard, director of the urban forestry program.

"It's under a lot of pressure from climate change, from urbanization, from development."

Fifty-five students have signed up for the program, which officially launches on Friday, Sheppard said. They will learn how to plan and design cities to include trees, as well as how to keep the canopy from shrinking.

"It's hard to believe we don't have such a course already," said Mike Rosen, president of Tree Canada, an organization that promotes and plants trees across the country.

Traditional forestry training for industrial purposes teaches skills that aren't as applicable to urban forests, Rosen said.

"Managing trees in a city is a lot different than managing them in the middle of the boonies," he said.

Instead of managing them for a specific product such as wood or paper, they must be managed to live as long as possible in the safest possible ways.

He argues that trees are good for the environment, health and the economy. They attract companies by creating a desirable place to live, positively affect real estate values (and therefore the amount of property tax revenue municipalities rake in) and help homeowners save on their heating and air conditioning bills, Rosen said.

The City of Vancouver has an urban forestry strategy to plant more trees that help manage wastewater, provide a habitat for wildlife, absorb carbon dioxide and reduce stress. Its goal is to plant 150,000 new trees by 2020, but has planted only 37,000 as of 2014.

BACKGROUND

Value of Canada's urban forests
Vancouver - $35 billion
Halifax - $11.5 billion
Montreal - $4.5 billion
Toronto - $7 billion
METRO

PROVINCIAL CARE

Hotels no good as kids' housing: advocate

British Columbia's representative for children says her trust in the provincial government has been shaken after she claims she was misled into believing that no kids in care were being housed in hotels.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond issued a sharp rebuke following the death of 18-year-old Alex Gervais, an aboriginal teen in care who was killed after falling from a fourth-floor window of an Abbotsford hotel last Friday.

"Very little can assuage my concern today about what has happened to this child," said Turpel-Lafond in an interview on Thursday.

"It matters not to me whether it was intentional or not unintentional. There's a boy that's dead."

She said B.C.'s commitment to her to keep children in provincial care safe has been broken.

Turpel-Lafond sent a scathing letter to the children's ministry on Wednesday asking for an explanation for the apparent deception.

She also demanded written assurance that, effective immediately, no youth would be placed in hotels or in single-room-occupancy living quarters and that youth currently housed in such circumstances would be moved as soon as possible.

Minister of Children and Family Development Stephanie Cadieux explained that hotels are used to house children in care only in extreme circumstances and policy requires that the ministry be notified whenever this takes place.

"What we learned when the tragedy happened in Abbotsford was that notification had not occurred, and that's not OK," said Cadieux. "We weren't informed."

Following Gervais' death, the ministry discovered that another child is housed in a hotel, though Cadieux said her child welfare director assured her the situation falls within the ministry's guidelines.

An internal review will be launched to discover why the policy wasn't followed, she added.

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Bishop frowns on vaccine

SEXUAL HEALTH

Church leader says abstinence is 'only choice' to prevent HPV

A Catholic bishop in B.C. says a vaccine that protects girls against a sexually transmitted infection isn't inherently wrong, but abstinence is the only healthy choice.

Bishop Stephen Jensen of the Diocese of Prince George also said in a September letter to parents of Grade 6 and Grade 9 girls attending Catholic schools that a legal option known as mature-minor consent won't be an option for students in the human papillomavirus vaccination program.

Mature-minor consent is defined on the BC Centre for Disease Control's website as the authority given to children under the age of 19 to allow, refuse or revoke their consent to be immunized. The centre said that authority takes precedence over parental authority.

The vaccine for human papillomavirus is given to prevent a sexually transmitted infection that can cause cancer. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

> **(The vaccine) is a preventative measure, and studies have shown that it does not affect a person's decision about being abstinent.**
> Jonathon Dyck, Northern Health spokesman

"You need to discern the merits of having your child vaccinated or not," Jensen told parents in the letter posted online.

"While the vaccination program is not inherently wrong, parents need to make an informed decision and communicate it in a way that can serve to strengthen their child in the virtue of chastity and reinforce her appreciation of abstinence as the only truly healthy choice."

He said the church and the parish will support parental rights.

The diocese didn't respond to email and phone requests for an interview by publication. In a posting on its website, the diocese provides a type of mission statement that explains the principles upon which its eight Catholic elementary schools operate.

"Children hear, learn, share and experience Catholic faith and values with and from teachers and staff committed to modeling the words and vision of Christ," it said.

HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections, three quarters of sexually active women will get it during their lives and it can become cancerous over time, according to the provincial government website ImmunizeBC.

Northern Health spokesman Jonathon Dyck said in an email that the authority will work with local schools to ensure people make informed choices about vaccinations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Commission proposes two new ridings for 2017

British Columbia's electoral map could be redrawn in time for the next provincial election in May 2017.

A three-member electoral boundaries commission has proposed two new ridings — one in Surrey and the other in Richmond — increasing the total number to 87 across the province.

Members of the B.C. legislature will make the final decision on the proposed boundary and riding changes as part of the commission's report tabled Thursday.

The two proposed ridings of Surrey South and Richmond-Queensborough are among the commission's 48 proposed boundary changes, which include shifts in Hope, Princeton and Cumberland on Vancouver Island.

The commission said huge population grown in both areas prompted the creation of the new ridings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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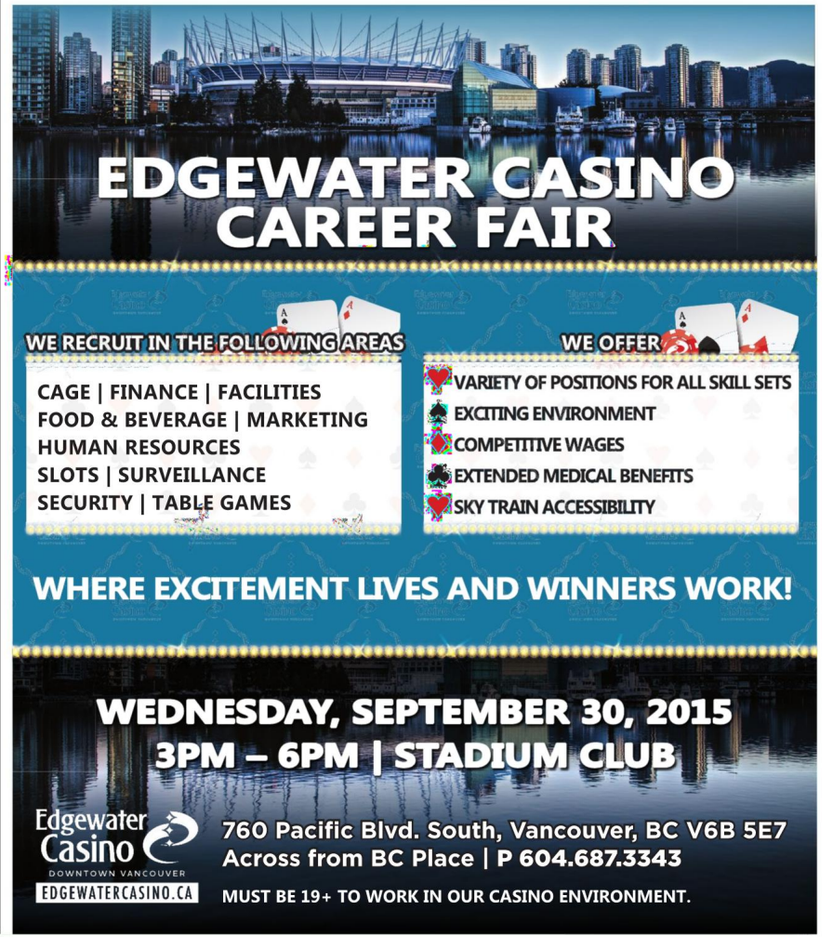
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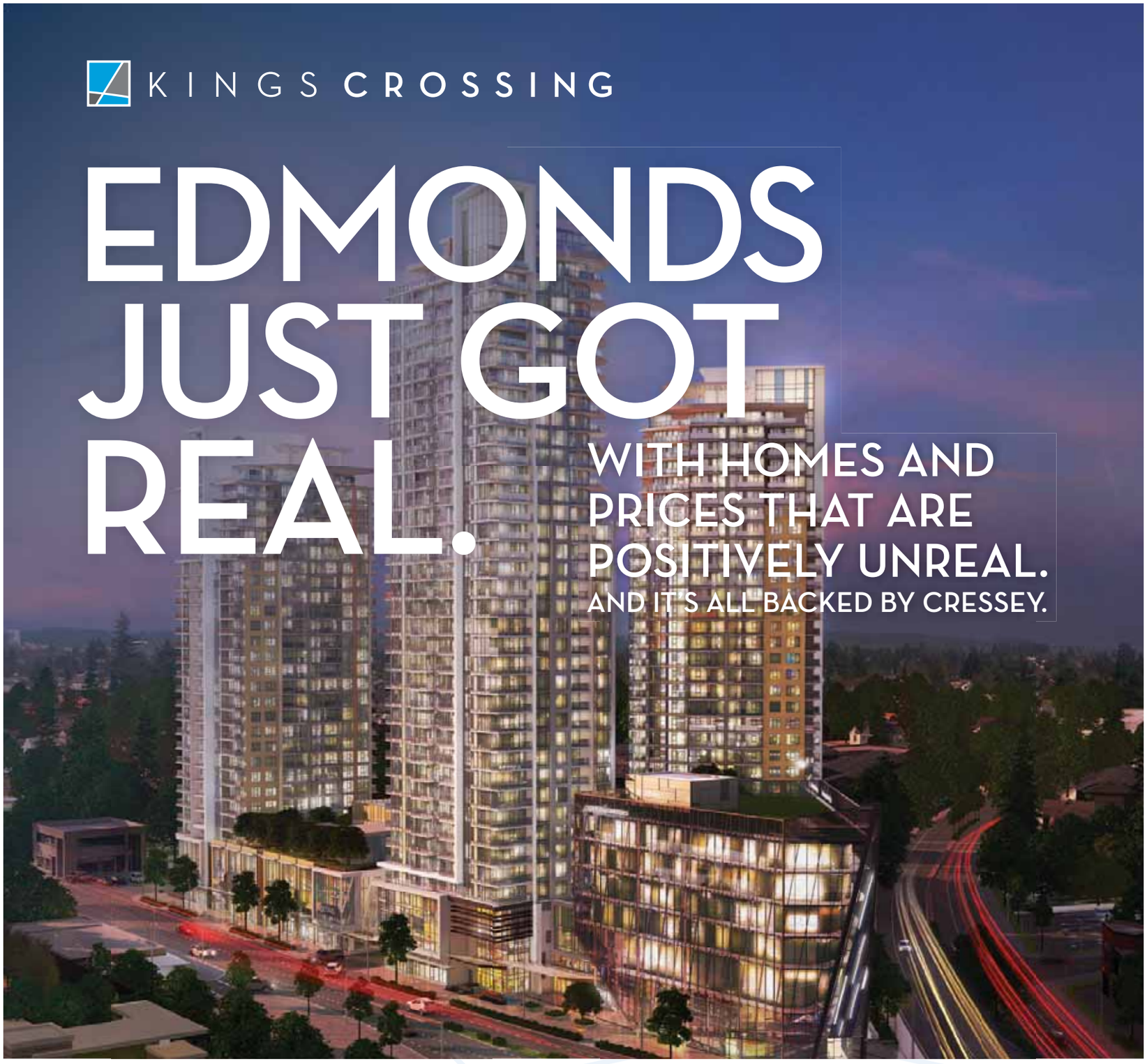

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NDP leader slams Liberals

POLITICS

John Horgan cites list of 'failures' on transit, housing

B.C.'s Opposition NDP leader is vowing to be a "genuine partner" with cities on transit, housing and mental health, taking aim at the government's "inventory of failures" on those issues.

John Horgan spoke on Thursday to hundreds of local politicians gathered at the Union of B.C. Municipalities conference, where he riffed on an earlier speech by a Liberal cabinet minister.

Horgan said he agreed with Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Peter Fassbender on the importance of partnership between the province and municipalities.

"Where I believe we differ is on how we establish that," Horgan said before launching into the government's "failures."

He said the New Democrats would not have handed the problem of transportation off to cities, like the Liberals did in the "misinformed and ill-advised" Metro Vancouver transit plebiscite.

NDP Leader John Horgan vows to partner with municipalities. COURTESY BCNDP

In July, 62 per cent of Metro Vancouverites rejected a mayors' proposal to raise $7.5 billion for transit projects through a half-per-cent tax hike.

> **We would do that (transit planning) together in unison.**
> John Horgan

"If we're going to ask the public for their consent to proceed with infrastructure development, we would do that together in unison on stages like this, hand in hand, rather than, 'Over to you, mayors, best of luck.'"

Horgan said affordable housing and homelessness are becoming major problems in B.C. and vowed to support initiatives such as the City of Victoria's plan to borrow $50 million from several sources to build supportive housing.

He also criticized the government for selling off public land in Coquitlam on Burke Mountain for more than $40 million under the appraised value, in the "hottest real estate market in North America."

"How do you do that when you're not allowing that land to be available to communities to build affordable housing for citizens that are crying out for it?" he said.

The NDP leader promised to work with communities on mental health, touting a program in Prince George that has reduced the number of police calls by people in emotional crisis.

Horgan also said he'd eliminate the office of the auditor general for local government, which has faced complaints about wasted money since it was created in 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHARITY

Officer doing 800-km bike ride for cancer

Const. Mark Peterse CONTRIBUTED

Few police officers can say they've been on both sides of the doughnut counter, except for one Mountie in Surrey.

Surrey RCMP officer Const. Mark Peterse, a former Langley bakery owner, is burning off the doughnuts for a good cause by embarking on an 800-kilometre bike ride in this year's Cops for Cancer Tour de Valley, which kicked off Thursday and runs until Oct. 2. Peterse said he decided to sign up after his losing his childhood best friend to cancer.

"When I am struggling with those early mornings or pushing up a big hill on the bike, I remember the kids undergoing chemo and radiation who don't complain," he said. "Seeing their bravery, their resilience, I know I can do this ride to support treatment."

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VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE 50 YEARS

Thursday night's debate in French offered a rare opportunity to hear from all the leaders.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leaders face off over the niqab

ELECTION 2015

Controversial face covering leads to heated exchanges

The politically charged subject of minority and women's rights created unusual on-stage alliances — and one of the most heated exchanges of the campaign — during the first French-language debate of the federal election.

Health care, the right to die with dignity, the Senate and the economy also came up Thursday during the first half of the debate, hosted by Radio-Canada in Montreal.

But the question of whether Muslim women who wear the face-covering niqab should be required to show their face while taking the citizenship oath was one of the most widely anticipated discussion points.

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper and the Bloc Quebecois' Gilles Duceppe had both run pointed television ads expressing the controversial position that women who wear the veil should be made to remove it during the ceremony.

"We're talking about a fundamental question; it's the question of equality between men and women in our society," said Duceppe, who promised the Bloc's first bill in the Commons would be extend a ban on the veil to other areas, such as public servants.

Although NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau are going head to head for seats in Quebec, they wound up on the same page on the issue — they didn't think a woman should be told how to dress.

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE FRIDAY

- **Stephen Harper** will be in Riviere-du-Loup, Que.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Ottawa.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Quebec City.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Montreal.

> **Where is the inquiry on missing and murdered aboriginal women?**
> Elizabeth May

"I understand it's a question that makes many people uneasy, but for me, the state is there to defend minority rights, and to defend the rights of women," Trudeau said.

That led to a tense moment during the debate that featured Harper and Mulcair facing each other directly, talking loudly over each other.

"Mr. Mulcair, I will never tell my young daughter that a woman should cover her face because she is woman. That's not our Canada, that's not acceptable for me," Harper said.

"Attack the oppressor, don't attack the woman, Mr. Harper ... have the courage to do that," Mulcair said. "But it's not by depriving these women of their citizenship and their rights that you're going to succeed in helping them."

Green party Leader Elizabeth May called the issue a "fake debate" that has nothing to do with important questions on climate change, unemployment and the economy.

"For women's rights, where is the inquiry on missing and murdered aboriginal women?" she asked.

Other lively moments came during a discussion on constitutional issues, where Trudeau challenged Mulcair's position that a simple majority in a referendum would be enough for Quebec to separate from Canada.

"Mr. Trudeau says it will take much more than simple majority, but he refuses to say how much," Mulcair said.

"A prime minister should fight for the unity of the country, and it won't surprise anyone that's what I intend to do," said Trudeau.

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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's coast-to-coast daily election series connects young, urban Canadians to the issues they care about

VOTER PROFILE

Name: Cory Nicotine **Age:** 26 **Riding:** Edmonton Manning
His issues: Energy, environment, First Nations rights, arts

A vote for the future of First Nations Canadians

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Edmonton

"This is where everything changed for me."

Cory Nicotine sits in a hallway at iHuman Youth Society in Edmonton, in the downtown neighbourhood known as the Quarters — home to parking lots and social-outreach groups, crime and Chinese restaurants — not far from scenic parks of the river valley.

This is the organization where he came for help when he got into petty trouble with the law, and was recruited for a theatre project that "gave me a voice that I never thought I had." iHuman made him a youth mentor, a community organizer, and led his political awakening.

"If there's one question I got, if I see any of the potential prime ministers," he says, "it would be: What would Canada look like for a young person like me, First Nations person, living on or underneath the minimum wage? What would it look like under their power or control?"

At 26, and though two federal elections have passed since he turned 18, this will be Nicotine's first time voting for Canada's next leader.

"I want to exercise my right. It's something indigenous people never got to do before. It's one way we could voice our opinions."

Nicotine has worries, and he's hoping the election can bring solutions and answers. Are major oil pipelines safe? Who will get the royalties? And what does it mean for First Nations near the oilsands?

Nicotine wants to see an inquiry into missing-and-murdered indigenous women ("like everybody"), but where will the money come from? And will it be taken from funds that currently help First Nations? How can we help young people without jobs? What about affordable education?

He sees the big three political parties in broad strokes: Conservatives represent "high class, billionaire, millionaire people. Liberals: middle-class, family people. NDP is looking for people trying to come up and make it."

That's Nicotine, who grew up "with nothing, wearing the same shoes and same clothes for about a year." But he hasn't decided who to vote for, yet.

Nicotine has worked on an art project with the NDP candidate in his riding, Aaron Paquette, who he calls a good guy with a good heart. He'd been thinking NDP, "because Jack Layton was a cool dude." But now, the party "is different from when Jack Layton ran it." He's not so sure about Tom Mulcair. He thinks Justin Trudeau also seems like a "good guy," and he likes the Liberals' plan to decriminalize marijuana, even though he doesn't smoke it.

He wants a Canada that stands for multiculturalism and welcomes refugees, that listens to the will of its indigenous peoples, that is a world leader in environmental protection.

As for federal politics impact on his own life, "I haven't seen much help from the government," he says. "I've lived on a reserve and I've lived in the city, and nothing, I feel, has gotten better."

But Nicotine, who is also a filmmaker, has had the opposite: what a government can take away. A few years ago, he was set to go to Africa, where he'd already been as a Canada World Youth leader, and make a documentary. Then the Conservatives cut arts funding. "It could have been a life-changing experience for me. There was so much I was hoping for in that."

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. On Monday she'll be in Calgary.

Playing the vote-swapping market

Tight ridings have plenty to offer with the right strategy

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Claire Nielsen is offering a trade: She'll (*gasp*) vote Liberal for you, if you'll vote Green or NDP for her.

Nielsen, a 21-year-old graphic- design student from the British Columbia riding of South Surrey–White Rock is looking for someone to vote-swap with.

"If you live in a riding that could go NDP or Green and you want to #voteswap hmu. Willing to vote NDP, Green, or (shudder) Liberal. #cdnpoli," she recently tweeted.

Nielsen would like to vote Green, or if not Green, then NDP, but she doesn't think either of those options are likely to count for much in South Surrey–White Rock.

"We've typically gone Conservative before, and that's what I'm trying to avoid," she said. So in comes the political calculus.

A recent vote projection for her riding by threehundredeight.com, suggests the Liberals are most likely to unseat the incumbent Tories. So, if Nielsen can find a suitable swapping partner — that is, a Liberal supporter in a riding where the NDP or Greens are in a close race with the Conservatives — she would pledge to vote Liberal in her riding on her behalf of her swapping partner, in exchange for her partner's promise to vote NDP.

But Nielsen hasn't yet found a match. She's worried her riding isn't close enough.

In the vote-swapping marketplace, where a voter's value is measured by their ability to affect outcomes, those in safe ridings have little to offer. And given that this is largely an anti-Harper movement, voters in safe Conservative ridings are the least valuable of all.

Those who find themselves in Nielsen's shoes might have better luck checking out some of the vote-swapping websites that have cropped up during this campaign.

Jim Harris, a former leader of the Green Party, runs one of them: voteswapping.ca. The site, which is expressly devoted to defeating the Conservatives, shows users who enter their postal code a rundown of some recent polling and predictions for their riding. NDP supporters living in swing ridings where the Conservatives are in a tight race with the Liberals, and Liberals supporters living in swing ridings where the Conservatives are in a tight race with the NDP are invited to swap.

Green supporters are invited to swap votes with NDP and Liberal supporters in the one riding where the Greens might win: Elizabeth May's riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands. (Some have credited vote-swapping for May's victory in 2011.)

Harris thinks it won't take too many vote-swappers to make a big difference.

"In 2011, Harper won his majority with 14 seats," he said, "and when you look at the difference between the Conservative winner and the second place in the 14 closest ridings, it's 6,201 votes.

"So about 6,000 votes out of about 11.8 million gave Harper his majority."

VISUALIZATION

Sample swapping scenarios

SCENARIO 1:

A Liberal supporter in Kootenay-Columbia
NDP: 37%
Conservatives: 37%
Liberals: 15%

swaps with

An NDP supporter in Eglinton-Lawrence
Liberals: 37%
Conservatives: 35%
NDP: 24%

51
Ridings were decided by 5% or less in the 2011 election.

SCENARIO 2:

A Liberal supporter in Saskatoon-University
NDP: 37%
Conservatives: 37%
Liberals: 22%

swaps with

An NDP supporter in Fredericton
Liberals: 37%
Conservatives: 32%
NDP: 20%

EU leaders show unity once more

metro The Syrian Crisis
The response

Summit OKs plan to deal with migrants

Afghan refugees reach the Greek island of Lesbos, Thursday, joining the nearly half-million asylum-seekers already in Europe. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After months of delay and debate, European Union leaders agreed Thursday to mount a broader, more comprehensive response to Europe's migration crisis, including ponying up more money to aid refugees in the Middle East, both to feed them and to reduce the chance they will come to Europe, and to toughen EU border controls.

"In the face of a major challenge, Europe can't just say: We will not deal with this. That would be completely wrong," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "We have to find answers together."

"Urgent needs" of refugees currently in the Middle East will be met with at least 1 billion euros ($1.1 billion US) in fresh EU funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Program and other agencies, the leaders decided. Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and other countries dealing with refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war should also receive greater injections of EU assistance, including through a "substantial increase" in the EU's Regional Trust Fund.

The leaders agreed to beef up border controls by providing more resources, including personnel and equipment from their countries, to help Frontex, the EU's border agency, Europol and other EU organizations.

By November, new EU dedicated teams will be fully deployed to assist local authorities in Greece and Italy — where most people have been arriving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAUDI ARABIA

Over 700 pilgrims killed in hajj crush

Two giant waves of Muslim pilgrims collided at an intersection Thursday near a holy site in Saudi Arabia, and more than 700 people were crushed and trampled to death in the worst disaster at the hajj in a quarter-century.

"People were climbing over one another just to breathe," said Abdullah Lotfy of Egypt. "It was like a wave. You go forward and suddenly you go back."

The hajj, which drew two million people from over 180 countries this year, is a huge logistical challenge for Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has spent billions of dollars to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims and maintain safety and security at Islam's holy cities of Mecca and Medina for the annual event.

Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki said that initial reports showed two crowds coming from opposing directions converged at an intersection in Mina, on the outskirts of Mecca, when the pushing and shoving started. "Unfortunately, these incidents happen in a moment," al-Turki said at a news conference.

100,000

About 100,000 security forces were deployed to manage the crowds and provide security for this year's hajj, with 5,000 CCTV cameras in Mecca and Medina.

But four survivors questioned how officials managing the flow of people could allow two big crowds going in different directions to intersect on streets packed with pilgrims.

As of late Thursday, the death toll was 719, but that probably would rise as bodies continued to be counted. At least 863 people were injured.

It was the second major accident during this year's hajj season. On Sept. 11, a construction crane crashed down onto the Grand Mosque, killing 111 people and injuring more than 390.

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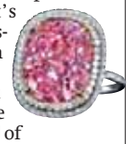
AUCTION

Diamond could net $28M

A pink diamond the size of a postage stamp is going on the auction block and it's estimated to bring as much as $28 million US.

The 16.08-carat gem could set a record for a cushion-shaped fancy vivid pink diamond when it's offered at Christie's in Geneva on Nov. 10.



The auction house says it's the largest diamond of its kind to come to auction.

A smaller, 8.72-carat pink diamond of the same shape and fancy vivid pink grade sold for $15.9 million US at auction in May.

Fancy vivid pink means the hue is of the purest and strongest saturation.

Christie's says the seller purchased it 10 years ago as an investment.

A 25-carat emerald-cut pink diamond holds the auction record for any diamond. It sold for $46 million US in 2010.

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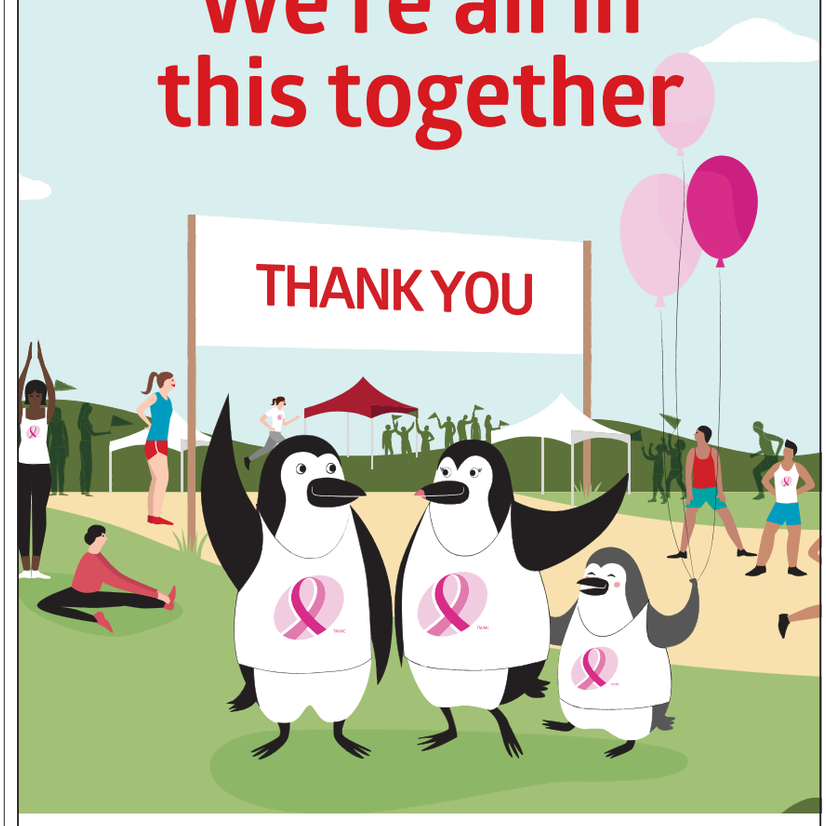

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An emergency official stands near a charter bus, left, and a Ride the Ducks amphibious tour bus that were involved in a fatal crash Thursday in Seattle. TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Duck boat' strikes bus

SEATTLE

Four dead in amphibious tour vehicle collision

A "duck boat" tour vehicle and a charter bus carrying foreign college students collided on a busy Seattle bridge Thursday, killing four people and sending dozens to hospitals.

The collision happened on the Aurora Avenue bridge, which carries one of the city's main north-south highways over a lake.

At least 12 people were in critical condition, and many others suffered minor injuries, Fire Chief Harold Scoggins said.

There was no immediate word about the cause of the crash, which involved a military-style tour bus that can also be operated on water. Initial reports described the accident as a head-on collision.

> **These are military craft that were never designed to navigate narrow city streets.**
> Lawyer Steve Bulzomi in a lawsuit over a 2011 accident

A driver who was behind the duck boat said the tour bus and duck boat were headed in opposite directions.

Brad Volm, 23, of Philadelphia, said the amphibious vehicle swerved in front of him. The left front tire of the duck boat appeared to lock up, and then the vehicle swerved into the oncoming charter bus, Volm said.

Witnesses described hearing a loud screech and then seeing injured people lying on the pavement or wandering around in a daze.

Jahna Dyer, a registered nurse, said she was walking across the bridge when she came upon the scene, a mess of jumbled metal and glass. Some victims were lying on the road. Others milled about, seemingly in shock and falling down.

Dyer jumped a railing separating the sidewalk from the roadway and helped stabilize an injured man's neck. She said she also helped a woman who had a cut lip and glass in her eye.

"She was holding my hand and saying thank you," she said.

The amphibious vehicle is operated by a tour company called Ride the Ducks, which offers tours that are known for exuberant drivers and guides who play loud music and quack through speakers as they lead tourists around the city. Company President Brian Tracey called the fatal accident "devastating" and told The Seattle Times that the company continually trains and conducts ongoing education classes to ensure safety.

The safety of the amphibious boats has been questioned before. Lawyer Steve Bulzomi represented a motorcyclist who was run over and dragged by a Ride the Ducks boat that came up behind him at a stoplight in downtown Seattle in 2011.

"These are military craft that were never designed to navigate narrow city streets," Bulzomi said Thursday. "This is a business model that requires the driver to be a driver, tour guide and entertainer at the same time. It asks too much of the driver."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RELIGION

Pope in D.C. visits Congress, homeless

Pope Francis on Thursday urged Congress and the nation to abolish the death penalty, fight global warming and embrace immigrants.

The pope entreated the nation to share its immense wealth with those less fortunate. Lawmakers gave rousing ovations to the leader of the world's Catholics despite obvious disagreements over some of his pleas.

Francis, in deliberate and accented English, noted that many lawmakers descended from immigrants and the U.S. was founded by foreigners "who came to this land to pursue their dream of building a future in freedom."

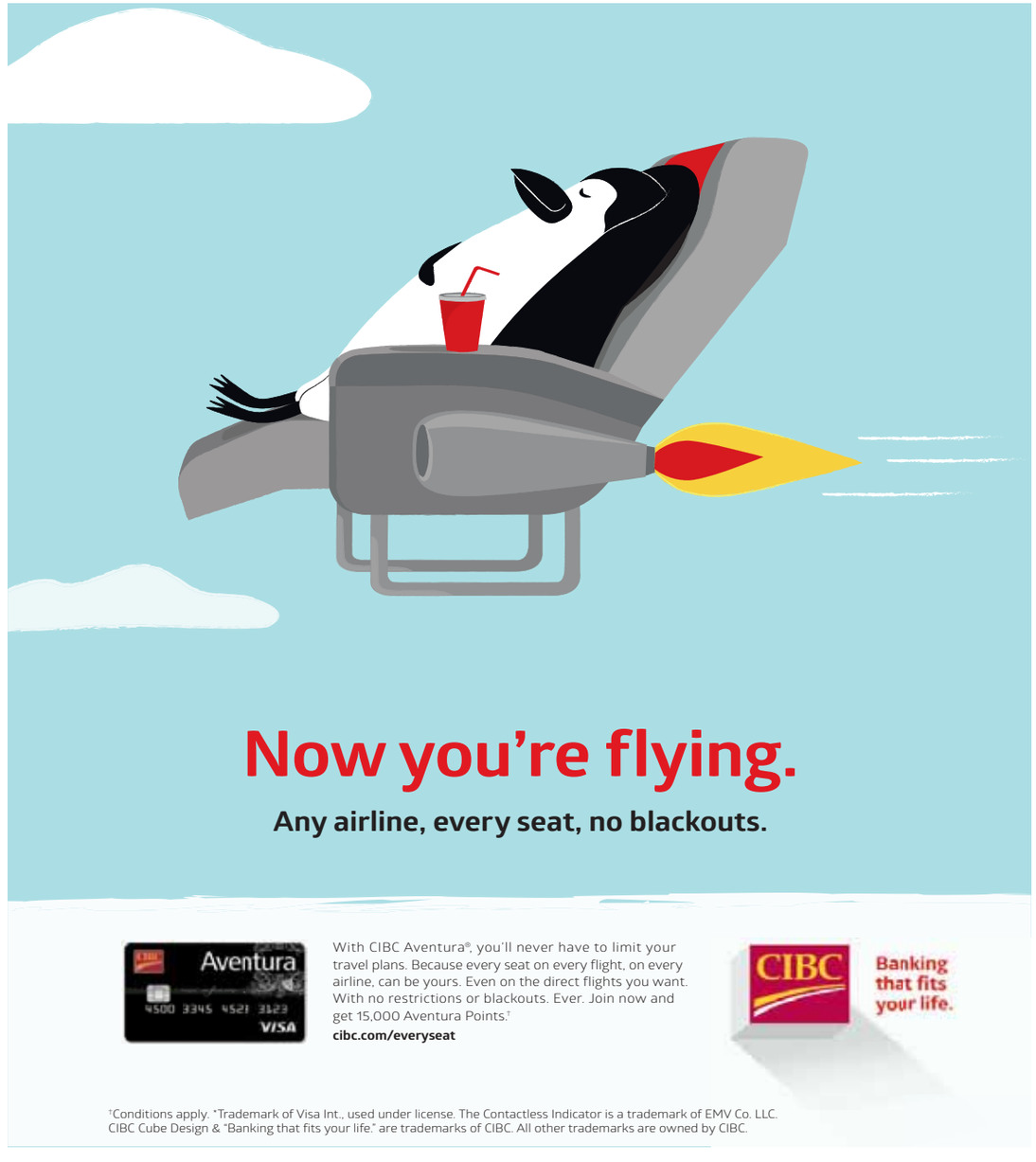
"Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated," he said. "Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves."

After he addressed Congress, the first pontiff to do so, he underscored his message by travelling directly to a downtown Washington church, where he mingled with needy and homeless people, blessed their noontime meal and walked among them while they ate.

Soon after, he headed by plane to New York, second stop on his three-city first visit to the U.S. After arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, he boarded a helicopter to Manhattan, where the cathedral is located.

Two sisters, 89-year-old Anna Ambrosino and 92-year-old Connie Angiolillo, waited in their wheelchairs for Francis to arrive. Angiolillo, citing her age, said this was her only chance to see him: "Next time I see the pope," she said, "it will be in heaven."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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HEALTH INSURANCE

Research options, insurer advises

The period of time between graduating from school to landing a full-time job with benefits can stretch on for months or years for young Canadians, meaning they lack extended health and dental benefits since they're too old to be covered by their parents' plans.

Provincial health insurance doesn't cover everything. If you don't have insurance, you'll end up paying out of pocket.

Loretta Kulchycki, vice-president of group marketing at Great-West Life, suggests consumers start their hunt for health and dental benefits by deciding how much coverage they're going to need and researching their options online.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Oculus eyes virtual reality mainstream market

Virtual reality is taking a few steps closer to the mainstream with announcements at a developers conference for virtual reality technology company Oculus in Los Angeles. Samsung unveiled a headset that brings the technology to its latest smartphones at half the price, Facebook said it is launching support for 360-degree video, and online video services said they are on board. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NATURAL GAS: $2.674 US (+3.6¢)
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Call of Duty getting a league of its own

VIDEO GAMES

Competition expanding to year-round championship

Activision is widening the scope of e-sports competition for Call of Duty players.

The publisher of the hugely popular military shooter franchise is expanding its e-sports program next year from an annual tournament to year-round international leagues, as well as increasing the prize pool from $1 million US to $3 million US. The international leagues will be comprised of professional and amateur divisions, culminating in a championship at the end of the year.

"This is going to mark a new era of e-sports for Call of Duty," said Rob Kostich, senior vice-president and general manager for Call of Duty at Activision.

Models dress as characters from the video game Call of Duty. Activision is expanding its e-sports competition from an annual tournament to a year-round season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"It signals Activision stepping up our commitment to what we've been doing with e-sports. We're expanding our season to make it a fun, competitive year leading into the Call of Duty Championship."

The Santa Monica, Calif.-based publisher is calling the revamped e-sports offering the Call of Duty World League. The competition will launch in early 2016 with leagues in North America, Europe and Australia and New Zealand. The three territories will each feature independent seasons concluding with 32 teams at the Call of Duty Championship in fall 2016.

"It felt like the right time to do it," said Kostich. "We've learned a lot over the past few years and talked a lot to our community. We think we have an agenda that's going to be really attractive to them, and we have a new game coming out, Call of Duty: Black Ops III, that we couldn't be more excited about to lead us into this new era of e-sports."

Kostich said the expanded program was devised to offer a deeper level of engagement with pro gamers while also encouraging casual fans.

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metro VIEWS

Gone fishing, for a while: Indigenous people in Alaska were catching salmon long before anyone thought. Cooked fish bits were found dating 11,500 years back, to the last ice age.

THE BIG THING: HAS CASH GONE COLD?

When was the last time you used cash for something other than a panhandler or a parking meter? Now the Bank of England's chief economist, Andy Haldane, has mused about abolishing money all together — at least the kind that's not made of plastic. To get the European economy going, he hopes to effectively charge negative interest — basically, to penalize people for leaving money in the bank. That's easier to do with a digital balance than with a wad of bills stuffed under a mattress. And though there are some protests from libertarians, there may be other good reasons to get rid of the green.

1 **Making (criminals) change**
When you don't want to be caught buying or selling, cash is your friend. It's what the dark side of the economy runs on. Some researchers argue that the crime rate goes down when people have fewer opportunities to offend — and without cash, drug dealers, phone pawners and tax dodgers may have a harder time of it. On the other hand, the so-called dark web is increasingly the home of such tainted transactions.

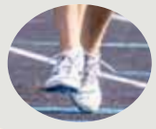
2 **Price to pay** Some feel that the idea of canning cash and allowing people's savings to be slimmed by negative interest has a whiff of tyranny about it. A columnist in the Financial Times wrote, "The anonymity of cash helps to free people from their governments, and some criminality is a price worth paying for liberty."

3 **Giving credit to debit**
Incredibly, when some counties in Missouri started making welfare payments electronically, cash-motivated crimes such as burglary and larceny fell by nearly 10 per cent compared to counties that had to be cashed. That lends credence to the idea that money burns a hole in your pocket and puts bad ideas in your head.

Happy face/sad face

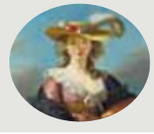
From **sprinting seniors** to **Russian royals,**
Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Romanov remains to be removed
The last royals of Russia, Czar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra, will be exhumed to settle an old dispute. The monarchs and their five children were killed in 1918. Bones of the parents and three children were interred in 1998. Two more sets of remains put to rest in 2007 were thought to be the other children. Not everyone agrees. Chief shovel-wielder is the Orthodox church, which canonized the family. So those who want to pray over the relics would be committing sacrilege if these turn out to be someone else's old bones.
SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Centenarian runs into old age
Japanese athlete Hidekichi Miyazaki set a record as the world's oldest competitive sprinter this week, one day after turning 105 — but he was sad about it. He fell short of his personal best, running 100 metres in 42.22 seconds, down from a record of 34.10. Miyaki was born on Sept. 22, 1910. He started running only in his 90s. Before that, his sporting activities were limited to board games — but he looked elsewhere for fun when his fellow players began to die off. The secret of his success is a little surprising: He says it's chewing his food properly.
SOURCE: CBC

Famous female French artist finally feted
After 170 years in obscurity, the first internationally celebrated female artist is getting her own exhibition in France. Elisabeth Louise Vigée le Brun fell out of favour after France's revolutionary furor, in part because her most famous work is a monumental portrait of Queen Marie-Antoinette, who had an unfortunate encounter with a guillotine just six years after it was painted. Only 150 of about 1,000 paintings le Brun created during her life will be displayed at Paris's Grand Palais – but it's an honour for an artist who was constantly dismissed by her male contemporaries. SOURCE: BBC



Bacteria wage war worldwide
Antibiotic overuse brings to mind a spoiled child with a sniffle whose parents demand penicillin. But a new report by the U.S. Center for Disease Dynamics suggests that's not right. While rich countries like Sweden are starting to take note of germs adapting to the medicines we use against them, that's not happening in the developing world. In many places antibiotics are available without a prescription. Drug resistance is serious in Kenya and Vietnam. And in India, 80 per cent of the stomach bug E. coli is resistant to three categories of drugs — a scary sign that an invisible enemy is outsmarting human attempts to curb disease. SOURCE: NPR

metroview

Sex education: Won't someone think of what the children need?

Samantha Emann
Metro | Toronto

The numbers are in, and have been for a while, and it's official: Teens have sex. For their sake, get over it.

I can't check Facebook or navigate the news without seeing another complaint about the new sex-education curriculum in Ontario — the most modern document of its type in the country, and one that sets a standard for other provinces to follow.

Yes, we should consider dissenters when crafting policies that affect children. But it's equally important to make sure the curriculum is free of the misinformation and blatant bigotry of organizations clearly pushing their own agendas.

Groups like the Canadian Families Alliance and the Campaign Life Coalition say the new curriculum, which opens a discussion on the proper names of genitalia in Grade 1, is improper. I, for one, do not miss the days of pee-pee and wee-wee, and I think such things are beneath us. The words "penis" and "vagina" cannot corrupt children.

These organizations are overlooking the facts. According to Statistics Canada, 25 per cent of teenagers have sex for the first time at age 15 or 16. Nine per cent — one in ten — were 14 or younger. The percentage increases with age, and by 18 or 19, 68 per cent said they have had sex.

But ideologues don't let facts stand in the way of their moral beliefs and so-called "traditional" view of human sexuality — that sex ought to take place between one man and one woman who are married to each other. That's nothing more than a hole in the sand where parents can bury their heads to deny that their teenagers are having sex.

If teens are going to have sex (and they are), they need information that will help them make the right choices and develop healthy, respectful relationships.

And they're not getting that information. The huge confusion about consent makes that abundantly clear. Much hay has been made about Grade 8 lessons in making a "personal plan" for sexual activity.

Maybe that's needed. A 2015 survey found 67 per cent of Canadians couldn't accurately define consent, and four per cent don't think consent is needed in every case (who are you people?).

A recent campaign by the University of British Columbia to teach this highly nuanced concept through the use of emojis further demonstrates why consent should be taught at a young age, before kids are having sex. The concept cannot be boiled down to smiley and not-so-smiley faces.

Teaching young people about healthy sexuality can save lives, and that is more valuable than archaic social beliefs and more important than the feelings of any parent who doesn't want to think about their children having sex.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

IT IS A STRANGE FACT THAT FREEDOM AND EQUALITY, THE TWO BASIC IDEAS OF DEMOCRACY, ARE TO SOME EXTENT CONTRADICTORY.
THOMAS MANN

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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION STYLE

Robert De Niro recently walked out of an interview with a journalist, saying "I'm not doing this, darling." But he isn't the first celebrity to behave badly when talking to the press. HANDOUT

The no good, very bad interview

PRESS JUNKETS

If you think De Niro is bad, try talking to Tommy Lee

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

What would you do if Robert De Niro cut short your conversation with a quick, "I'm not doing this, darling," and exited? If you're Radio Times journalist Emma Brockes you write about it and watch your article go viral.

As unpleasant as the encounter may have been — he objected to the "negative inference" of her questions, she called him condescending — it did exactly what it was meant to do, generate buzz for De Niro's upcoming film The Intern.

Who won? I'll give the edge to Brockes who, when faced with a bad situation, turned De Niro's lemons into lemonade and earned just as much press as the touchy actor.

De Niro took some blowback for his behaviour. Daily Mail columnist Piers Morgan wrote, "If I'd been her, I'd have slapped him 'round his smug little chops," adding the Goodfellas star is "renowned as the rudest, most difficult and frankly obnoxious star to interview, possibly in the history of planet Earth."

I think Morgan overstates his case. De Niro isn't the worst — anyone who has ever done a movie junket knows Tommy Lee Jones is the crankiest, most soul destroying interview ever — he's just a reticent interview, who, according to director Nancy Myers, doesn't want "to expose himself all the time."

De Niro isn't alone in the chat-and-dash sweepstakes. Robert Downey Jr. and Quentin Tarantino bolted on Krishnan Guru-Murthy with the Avengers: Age of Ultron actor later calling the Channel 4 news presenter a "syphilitic parasite." Robert Pattinson, Naomi Campbell and Russell Crowe have also done runners on the press.

So why submit to promotional interviews at all? Contractual obligation has much to do with it, but beyond that, they're good for the movie. Daniel Radcliffe, star of Harry Potter, Horns and the upcoming Victor Frankenstein, once told me no matter how famous the actor, anyone who doesn't get out and pump their film up to the press is making a huge mistake.

As a result everyone does them and while it's easy to look at De Niro or Downey as spoiled brats, I'm surprised walkouts don't happen more often.

It must get brutally dull answering the same questions over and over, particularly when they are of the "Of all your leading ladies who was the best kisser?" variety.

How bad can it get in the interview suites?

Once a talking head proudly told me she wrote new lyrics for Beyoncé's hit song Survivor… "My name's Beyoncé/ I'm in Goldmember/ You're watching blah blah on blah blah blah…" and asked the superstar to sing them as a promo for her television station. If I were Beyoncé I would have exited stage left without a song on my lips.

I remember one "reporter" asking George Lucas "whether Dark Vader was a good guy or a bad guy." If I were Lucas I would have hitched a Millennium Falcon ride out of there.

Recently I heard Tom Cruise try and answer the question, "What kind of stunt would you do to impress a girl?" If I were Cruise I would have grabbed the side of the nearest plane and jetted out of there.

As for De Niro, Brockes graciously says she has sympathy for him "because nobody wants to be there for these choreographed junket interviews."

De Niro wasn't quite as kind, but at least he called her "darling" and not "syphilitic parasite."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Intern	★★
Hotel Transylvania	★★
Pawn Sacrifice	★★★

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Billy Crudup's big experiment

The Stanford Prison Experiment is based on the real-life psychological experiment conducted by Dr. Philip Zimbardo in 1971. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Actor took his role as a psychologist too seriously

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Actor Billy Crudup has a simple theory why his true-life indie drama The Stanford Prison Experiment is striking a chord with movie audiences.

"It is disturbing in the exact right way," states the 47-year-old star who plays Dr. Philip Zimbardo — the infamous university professor who directed one of history's most shocking social experiments.

Filmmaker Kyle Patrick Alvarez's award-winning Sundance hit dramatizes the 1971 experiment in which Zimbardo (played by Crudup) randomly assigned students to either the role of sadistic guard or submissive inmate, then studied as the subjects soon grew horribly abusive in a simulated jailhouse environment.

"Oh, it's interesting," said Crudup about the actual footage he studied in preparation.

"At that time, the closed-circuit television wasn't the greatest quality and the cameras were positioned far away (so) you don't get the same kind of feeling watching it as seeing the movie. Kyle does this really impressive job getting close-ups of all the faces twitching or these kids really being disturbed."

For authenticity, Alvarez also enlisted the real Dr. Zimbardo to help shape the script and although the researcher's methods have since been called into question,

Crudup insists the man seemed entirely rational whenever he visited the set.

"He is certainly among the most charismatic (men) that I've met," said Crudup.

"He has such a fascination with this subject matter and for this event in particular and he has an appetite to share experience so he was a really wonderful presence to have on set and to learn from."

But Crudup may have enjoyed Zimbardo's visits for another reason. After all, since the veteran star of blockbusters Almost Famous and comic-book adaptation Watchmen was portraying the strict psychologist, he decided to avoid the rest of the young cast and kept from mingling with fellow actors during filming.

"I was meant to be an authority figure and someone who was intimidating and had a capacity to manipulate the situation of their well being. I didn't want them to have any great sense of generosity or warmth towards me," explained Crudup.

"Besides when you're working on a low-budget movie like this, there's not that much opportunity for socializing anyway."

FILMOGRAPHY

Watchmen (2009): Crudup got to flex his muscles as superhero Dr. Manhattan in this global comic-book hit.

Big Fish (2003): Trying to relive the stories of his fictional dying father proved successful in this Tim Burton fantasy, earning $123 million worldwide.

Almost Famous (2000): Perhaps his best known role, Crudup plays '70s guitarist Russell Hammond in this Oscar-nominated rock drama.

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Roles reverse when the camera rolls

THE INTERN

Hathaway bosses De Niro despite being intimidated

Matt Prigge
Metro | New York

Anne Hathaway plays the founder of an online clothing startup in The Intern. HANDOUT

Robert De Niro is scary. That's the line, anyway. In addition to his storied accomplishments, he's quiet and careful with words, loath to open up — qualities that, at least for journalists hoping for a chatty interview, paint him as formidable. Indeed, he recently walked out on an interview (if perhaps not undeservedly) for his new film, The Intern. Even Anne Hathaway, his co-star, was initially at least a little terrified.

"I couldn't talk around him for the first three weeks. I just felt like an idiot with everything I said," Hathaway recalls. But she soon found that his reticence was, as their director, Nancy Meyers (Something's Gotta Give, It's Complicated), had told her, more zen than menace. "Bob's good at having chemistry with people. So I assumed that as long as I didn't mess up I'd be OK."

As it happens, in The Intern their characters have something like the opposite arc. He plays Ben Whittaker, a widower who takes advantage of a new trend towards hiring retirees as unpaid interns. He winds up at an online clothing startup founded and largely run, or at least micromanaged, by Hathaway's Jules Ostin. She's overworked and remote, but Ben finds a way to earn her trust and is soon offering her advice.

"I think it is (Meyers') love letter to us, our generation," De Niro says. "When you're a certain age, you get older, you're less relevant in some ways. That's just not the case."

Hathaway herself learned a few things, not just from De Niro but also from Meyers.

"When we started we saw the character in two different ways," Hathaway remembers. "I wanted her to be wearing her stress on her sleeve; Nancy wanted her to have it more together. And then I thought, 'Idiot. Who knows a Nancy Meyers character better than Nancy Meyers?' It became this wonderful experience in being guided through a character, which is very new for me." Once Hathaway surrendered her initial instincts to Meyers' vision, she says she found a place of contentment. "Up until now I have made a lot of movies from insecurity and neuroses and self-doubt. I just got really tired of it and I decided to make this from a more positive place, to feel good about what I was doing," Hathaway explains. "It turns out you can make a movie without having non-stop sleepless nights."

VALUABLE LESSON
THE INTERN INTRODUCES AUDIENCES TO THE NOVEL IDEA THAT OLDER GENERATIONS MIGHT HAVE WISDOM EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE FACEBOOK

So that's what Hathaway learned about herself. De Niro didn't have quite the same epiphany. He says, "I don't think I learned anything about myself that I didn't know already."

As for their director, Hathaway is typically effusive.

"She's the smartest person in any room she's ever been in," she says. "Having been a woman in the industry for the last 30 years, it's not easy being the smartest, funniest person in the room and being a woman. But she's handled it with tremendous grace."

One last note: In addition to a newly zen feel for the craft, Hathaway — briefly, semi-disastrously — found herself with a newfound love for interns.

She recalls being on a photoshoot recently, where she was greeted by an intern.

"Because of this movie I went out of my way to pay her a little more attention — ask who she was, why she was doing this, where she wanted to go," Hathaway remembers. Thinking she'd do something nice, she asked her to help out with some music she wanted to play, and had her rig up some iPods to the speaker system.

"I didn't realize the sound system was impossible to work. Every time she would leap from iPod to iPod, it would create the most horrible screech through the entire sound system. Everyone hated it. So, as I was trying to do a nice thing for the intern, I wound up making everyone annoyed by the sound she was making. So I'm not the best."

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2006	Ford Crown Victoria	$2,995	#5600	2015	Kia Sorento AWD	$22,888	#6564
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KHMER ROUGE

Angelina Jolie Pitt's son heavily involved in new film about Cambodia

Angelina Jolie Pitt has been in scouting locations in Cambodia for her next film, First They Killed My Father, which she is casting entirely with local talent.

In a statement Thursday to The Associated Press, Jolie Pitt said she's spent the last week doing research and pre-production on the film before beginning shooting in Cambodia in November. She said she's striving, through meetings with Cambodians, to ensure the movie about the deadly Khmer Rouge regime is "accurate and faithful" to the 1970s events.

Jolie Pitt is collaborating with Cambodian author and human rights activist Luong Ung, who said the film "will be made with Cambodians as a symbol of dignity and an act of memory." The two wrote the script together, adapted from Ung's 2000 memoir. Jolie Pitt has said her 14-year-old Cambodia-born son, Maddox, is heavily involved in the movie, which is told from a child's perspective. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

The bag was ripped and discarded on the living room floor while we devoured its greasy contents.

After gathering enthusiastic reviews out of Cannes and TIFF, Sicario, French-Canadian director Denis Villeneuve's suspenseful and grim look at the drug trade, opens in theatres this month.

Emily Blunt is FBI field agent Kate Macer who plays by the book. She's asked to join a government task force, lead by a flip-flop-wearing Josh Brolin and Benicio Del Toro — whose near-silent performance is spellbinding — aiming to apprehend Mexico's most infamous drug lord. She becomes acutely aware that not everyone plays her way.

Villeneuve's style is being compared to Michael Mann and Kathryn Bigelow's. It also recalls Steven Soderbergh's Traffic, which examines the complicated drug cartel web weaved on both sides of the border.

But where Traffic looked over-saturated and grainy, Sicario appears washed out and arid. Long after I left the theatre, Sicario's haunting soundtrack, which pulsates and propels the film's thrilling pace, stayed with me.

So, too, did Blunt's performance. Not only how well she captured her character's descent from idealist to defeatist, but also how Blunt was able to convey how solitary — both professionally and personally — Macer is.

Not so in real life. Blunt married The Office's Jon Krasinski at George Clooney's Lake Como villa.

That's where her sister Felicity, a U.K.-based literary agent, met her future husband, Blunt's The Devil Wears Prada co-star, Stanley Tucci.

THE MOVIE: Sicario

THE MEAL: Fish and chips

The pair fell head over heals in love over their shared affection for food. In 2014 they published The Tucci Table, a collection of familial recipes inspired by their respective Italian and British upbringings.

Emily's chicken noodle soup — the reason Krasinski wanted to be her husband, she says — is included.

So too is a recipe for fish and chips, a dish seeped in nostalgia for the Blunt siblings.

One of Felicity's earliest memories is picking up "huge pieces of deep-fried cod and all sorts of odd-shaped chips" after seeing a movie with Emily and their Nanna.

Let me be frank: Even if Stanley Tucci himself assures me that making fish and chips at home is relatively easy, I will never do it — not when every day after work I bike past Chippy's, which has been serving up Guinness-battered strips of fish and crispy chips for a dozen years.

It's been a couple of years since Chippy's siren-like call of deep-fried aroma has lured me in.

But on a recent weekday night, with no groceries at home to speak of, I succumbed. Although the shop now has an Interac machine — and moderate indie rock had replaced deafening heavy metal — not much has changed. Within five minutes I had two orders of halibut and chips secured in a brown paper bag. Thirty minutes after that, the bag was ripped, like a raccoon got at it, and discarded on the living room floor while we devoured its gloriously greasy contents with our hands.

Fighting over the curry sauce was like the Hunger Games — only there was no Stanley Tucci to bring levity to the chaos.

Lesson learned: next time, bring home more sauce.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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Q&A

Denis Villeneuve won't be surfing on past successes

Denis Villeneuve is in demand.

The Quebec director rattles off the back-to-back projects that have kept him criss-crossing the globe on movie shoots and promotional tours and guesses he might have time to sleep in 2018.

Right now he's focused on the theatrical roll-out of his cartel saga Sicario, a searing look at the Mexican drug war starring Emily Blunt as an idealistic FBI agent and Benicio Del Toro as an enigmatic assassin. It opens Friday in select theatres in Canada.

He's also consumed with editing his alien flick Story of Your Life with Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner — duties that carry right into pre-production for the Blade Runner reboot starring Harrison Ford and Ryan Gosling.

Villeneuve doesn't expect to be ready to go to camera for that hot title before the end of 2016.

The Canadian Press caught up with the Oscar-nominated filmmaker to discuss sequels, his Hollywood dreams, and sidestepping Legally Blonde 7.

Sicario hasn't fully opened yet but there's already talk of a sequel.
The characters are very strong and Taylor Sheridan's screenplay ... was very powerful. The thing is that Lionsgate is very proud of the film and before the release they were starting to think, "What if? What if?" I'm not closed to the idea, I think it all depends on if Taylor can write something that is as good as the first one.... I believe in sequels if they are better. I will not do something that is surfing on the success of the first one.

Denis Villeneuve has just rolled out Sicario and there is already talk of another one. NATHAN DENETTE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **I feel that there's a real strong movie that can be born out of this screenplay. That's why I agreed to do it.**
> Denis Villeneuve, on doing a Blade Runner reboot

Of course. Otherwise why would you helm a Blade Runner reboot?
It's true. In a way I feel that the (Blade Runner) screenplay I read that Hampton Fancher, Ridley Scott and Michael Green wrote is a very powerful screenplay and I feel that there's a real strong movie that can be born out of this screenplay. That's why I agreed to do it.

And fitting that this comes on the heels of another sci-fi project with Amy Adams.
I've been dreaming to do sci-fi since I was 10 years old.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ANIMATION

Hotel Transylvania 2

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky
Starring: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez

The hit CG-animated family comedy Hotel Transylvania gets a followup with this Sony Pictures Animation production.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: NOT YET REVIEWED Audience: +96%

ACTION & ADVENTURE

Everest

Director: Baltasar Kormakur
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Jason Clarke

2 Guns helmer Baltasar Kormakur directs Jake Gyllenhaal, Josh Brolin, Jason Clarke, and John Hawkes in this adventure docudrama set in 1996, when a number of simultaneous expeditions up Mount Everest resulted in the deaths of eight climbers.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 73% Audience: 76%

COMEDY

The Intern

Director: Nancy Meyers
Starring: Anne Hathaway, Robert DeNiro

A retired successful business owner and widower lands an internship at a fashion website run by a young, career-driven woman.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 58% Audience: +97%

DRAMA

Pawn Sacrifice

Director: Edward Zwick
Starring: Peter Sarsgaard, Tobey Maguire

In a gripping true story set during the height of the Cold War, American chess prodigy Bobby Fischer (Tobey Maguire) finds himself caught between two superpowers when he challenges the Soviet Empire.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 79% Audience: +96%

DRAMA

The New Girlfriend

Director: François Ozon
Starring: Raphaël Personnaz, Isild Le Besco

Claire, a young woman whose closest friend since childhood, Lea, passes away leaving behind a husband, David (Romain Duris) and a newborn baby. One day she drops by David's house unexpectedly, and finds him dressed in his dead wife's clothes and feeding their baby with a bottle.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 81% Audience: 58%

COMEDY

Grandma

Director: Paul Weitz
Starring: Lily Tomlin, Marcia Gay Harden

Lily Tomlin stars as Elle who has just gotten through breaking up with her girlfriend when Elle's granddaughter Sage unexpectedly shows up needing $600 before sundown. Temporarily broke, Grandma Elle and Sage spend the day trying to get their hands on the cash as their unannounced visits to old friends and flames end up digging up secrets.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 92% Audience: +92%

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4 FILMS THAT DARED TO SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Until this week's landmark ruling from a Californian District Court that put Happy Birthday to You in the public domain, film and television studios wouldn't use the song to avoid licensing costs. We look at five films that ran against the grain. **AFP**

1 Batman Begins

30-year-old Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) enters to a polite, string-accompanied Happy Birthday sung by friends and acquaintances. That establishes his status as a well-esteemed member of high society, right up until the moment he's confronted by Ra's al Ghul (Liam Neeson) and has to throw out his guests and trash a carefully curated reputation. Batman Begins was, of course, a Warner Bros film, the studio having held the Happy Birthday license since 1988.

2 Office Space

Professional awkwardness at its comic, toe-curling best as an enterprise's worth of disgruntled employees mumble Happy Birthday to their privileged, presumptuous Initech boss Bill Lumbergh (Gary Cole). No. 1 outcast Milton (Stephen Root) doesn't get the piece of cake he was promised, further contributing to the character's unfortunate decline.

3 Full Metal Jacket

Unlike Initech's VP Lumbergh, Gunnery Sgt. Hartman can actually command a rousing recitation of the traditional birthday song, performed on Christmas Day and personally addressed to Jesus, before reminding his troops of who it is that currently claims possession of their recently recruited behinds.

4 Old School

Sean William Scott is in charge of a miniature pony at a kid's birthday party thrown by Bernard Campbell (Vince Vaughn); Scott's character drops an f-bomb and a tranquilizer gun in the pony's pen and when Frank (Will Ferrell) accidentally shoots a dart into his own neck, a muddy, lethargic Happy Birthday becomes the soundtrack for a cake-crushing rampage.

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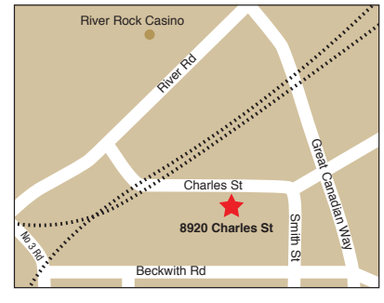

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Australian actor Jason Clarke stars as Rob Hall, who leads the expedition in the film Everest. UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP

Performing at his peak

EVEREST

Cast and crew braved altitude sickness, icy temperatures

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Jason Clarke battles the elements in Everest, recreating the true story of a disastrous trip to the summit of the tallest mountain in the world. While most would assume it was all movie magic, the Australian reveals the reality.

What was shot outside and how much was staged?
We started off, we went to Kathmandu. We flew in there and shot all that stuff that you see there, and then we did basically the hike up to base camp, but we chop it up because of time. You start shooting at 12,000 to 16,000 feet. That was an issue because normally to acclimatize the group will take two and a half weeks to climb up to that point, at which point you're ready to hang out at base camp for a month before you go for the summit. We had to go up and down quite quickly, so people were affected. There was a scene where we were up with the memorials to the dead people, that was shot at 16,000 feet just around the corner from base camp.

That sounds amazing, but terrifying.
Sure, but oh my God, it was special. We then went to the Alps in Italy, and we shot a lot of the southeast ridge and the external stuff on the peaks up there between 10,000 and 13,000 feet. It was (-30 C) in winter, so it was cold and snowy. Pretty much the only stuff we shot on the stage was the actual summit itself and the Hillary Steps stuff....

The costumes and the beard and being so bundled up, you don't really have to worry about makeup and hair things like that. I mean, when we got to that stage they stuck in this weird gel stuff that was horrible, but no. It was one of those "no acting required" gigs.

Were you much of a hiker or climber before this?
Yeah, more so a lot of hiking. I'd done some climbing, and then I did a lot of big climbs to get ready for it back in New Zealand and then in Scotland just to kind of get a sense of what it's like to be out when it's f—ed up and just take it.

You're doing a New Zealand accent in this, and I feel like every time I see you, you're doing some accent different than your own.
I prefer to do an accent. It's one way to find character. For this next role I'm learning the violin and fencing. The work itself helps you find the character. If things weren't difficult to do, I'd probably be lazy. And I actually prefer to work with accents, when there's a voice. I remember Heath (Ledger) in Brokeback Mountain, that voice that he had. That just was his character. It was amazing.

One thing I appreciated about this movie is the restraint with which it handles death scenes. The people are just there one second and not there the next.
That's Baltasar (Kormakur) sticking to his story and knowing his story and saying, "This is the movie that I'm making." And understanding the power of good story. He knew exactly the line and kept us on that line.

It being a true story, do you find that is a kind of reassurance in making it?
A reassurance, absolutely, in the heart of it. And then also daunting for the fact that people died, a lot of them are still up there. The ones that are alive or their children are still alive, it all played out so publicly for them and they're going through it again now. We didn't want to take a stupid stab at something just for the movie's sake and create a moment that is fake and false, so that weighed heavily on me. I wanted to make sure that I was thoroughly prepared.

> **The work itself helps you find the character. If things weren't difficult to do, I'd probably be lazy.**
> Jason Clarke

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YouTube star Helbig is making it offline

INTERVIEW

She's tackled network TV, live comedy and publishing

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

Despite the raunchy innuendo of her podcast title, Not Too Deep, Grace Helbig's comedy is more blithe than risqué.

"I feel like dark comedy doesn't look good on me for some reason," says Helbig, 29, who this summer wrapped the first season of her self-titled talk show on E! network. "I have more fun when I try to approach comedy from a slightly more positive and silly angle."

Helbig, who made a name for herself on YouTube where she has 2.7 million subscribers, is performing this Saturday at Just For Laughs comedy festival in Toronto with someone who just might balance out her sweetness — Epic Meal Time's Harley Morenstein, whom she accurately describes as a "six-foot-four bearded, burly dude." Morenstein is known for attacking recipes on his preposterous cooking show with the swagger and F-bomb frequency of a gansta-rap star wannabe. "But he giggles like a 12-year-old Catholic schoolgirl," says Helbig.

She hopes they will deliver a paired-down, mellow and "strictly dumb" live podcast show for an in-person audience that's likely to be split in half between YouTube fans and more traditional standup comedy goers.

The future of the Grace Helbig Show on E! is up in the air. The sketch show bore a similar style to her online video clips — bright graphics paired with childish games such as such as rolling around in Velcro suits with her fellow YouTubers. The main difference is that the TV show also featured traditional celebs like Jack Black and Dwayne Johnson, but still incorporated fan participation into the scripts. In her interview with Johnson, for instance, Helbig reads a social media comment: "I heard all he has to do is look at a pistachio and it cracks itself open," after which she hands him a nut and a green laser shoots out of his eyes.

"We're trying to restructure," says Helbig, of the show, admitting it was a learning curve for both her and the network. The show last spring debuted to 227,000 viewers in a Friday night time slot — an underwhelming number if compared to Chelsea Handler's Chelsea Lately, which brought in approximately 600,000 viewers a night towards the end of its run.

"Media in general is constantly changing and evolving. It will probably be different when we get off this phone call than it was before jumped on," she says. "We all learned a lot about trying to bring the Internet to TV, to an audience that ... watches The Kardashians more than they watch Jenna Marbles."

Still, Helbig, perhaps more than any other YouTube star, has had a lot of success in crossing back and forth between the traditional and digital platforms. Last year her first book, Grace's Guide: The Art of Pretending to be Grownup hit No. 1 on the New York Times Bestseller list in the advice category a week after launch. She's following it up with a new book out this February titled Grace & Style: The Art of Pretending You Have it.

"It's a tongue-in-cheek style guide and kind of a random brain-smattering of my thoughts on beauty and fashion. I kind of have been calling it a f—d up Pinterest board in a way," she says.

She also recently wrapped production on a reboot of the '70s Electra Woman and the Dyna Girl, which is expected to launch as a series some time this winter.

"We shot in Vancouver for a month and a half which was really cool. We didn't do too much prep. We learned firsthand we probably should have lifted a few weights or something before we got up there," she says of her co-star and frequent collaborator Hannah Hart. "It was a humbling experience because there are some really tacky spandex suits that we have to wear."

Grace Helbig will perform at Just For Laughs. HANDOUT

> **There was GiGi Gorgeous sitting directly next to Paula Abdul. In my mind I was like, this is what the Internet looks like in real life.**
> Grace Helbig, on the Streamy Awards show

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Egypt to close Tutankhamen's tomb near Luxor for restorations

A mountain immersed in myth

The three summits of the Stawamus Chief Mountain, which attracts thousands of visitors each year for its rock climbing and hiking trails. ISTOCK

SQUAMISH, B.C.

Sacred stories just part of summitting the Chief

The Stawamus Chief on Canada's West Coast is a world-renowned rock-climbing destination known for its beautiful multi-pitch routes and unrivalled crack-climbing pitches.

But many visiting outdoor enthusiasts are unaware that the iconic granite monolith also carries the scars of a legendary battle.

The region's Squamish people tell of the mythical hero Xwech'taal vanquishing the double-headed sea serpent Sinulhkay before uniting the Squamish Nation.

As Sinulhkay fled across the mountain, the creature seared a trail of defeat into the stone, which today is visible as a deep blackened cleft that runs like a scar up and over the mountain's face.

"It's a very powerful, sacred mountain that my people have admired for many years," says Ian Campbell, hereditary chief and elected councillor of the Squamish First Nation.

Campbell talks of the legendary Transformer brothers creating the Chief out of an enormous First Nations home in which all the spirit animals had gathered for a feast.

"We see it in the physical realm as a mountain, but in the spirit realm it's a longhouse," he said, describing it as a symbol of togetherness.

Today, the Stawamus Chief — pronounced stah-WAH'-muss, but known colloquially simply as the Chief — attracts thousands of visitors every year, both for its premier rock-climbing offerings but also thanks to its readily accessible hiking trails that climax in rewarding ridge-top vistas.

The mountain towers 700 metres over the head of a picturesque, inundated fjord, about 50 kilometres northwest of Vancouver. It cuts a striking image from afar, visible at the base of the scenic Sea-to-Sky Highway as a radiant granite sentinel, standing watch over the sleepy community of Squamish. The monolith is the namesake of the First Nation settlement of Stawamus, located immediately at its foot.

Looking down from the first of its three rounded granite summits, the slithering Squamish River can be seen reaching the salty waters of Howe Sound, which ripple between shades of teal and aquamarine under a shifting, cloud-covered sky.

IF YOU GO
Consult the B.C. Parks website for more information: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks

The initial peak is accessible about 1.5 kilometres from and 540 metres above the trail's starting point, while the two remaining summits are located slightly higher and farther along.

The panorama offers a view across the core of the Squamish Nation's territory.

To the north, the snow-streaked slopes of Nch'kay — also known as Mount Garibaldi — angle into the high-ceilinged clouds. Nch'kay played a prominent role in the Squamish Nation's creation story, offering sanctuary to the region's people during the great flood, explains Campbell.

The site also provides crucial nesting habitat to the peregrine falcon, prompting periodic closures of certain climbing routes throughout the year.

On any given summer day, small coloured specks can be made out dotting the mountain's face, indicating yet another band of climbers who have opted for the more direct, albeit somewhat more challenging, path to the peak.

A middle-aged couple from Michigan braved the moss-covered crag and scrambled up the occasional metal ladder and chain to reach the first peak.

"You just can't do justice to this place," says David McGreaham, marvelling at the view with his wife Kathy. "This is something I'll remember."

Other visitors come from farther afield. Ludovic Minne of France was about to wrap up two weeks of climbing and hiking in the Pacific Northwest.

"The view is just amazing — really, really beautiful," he said, smiling broadly as he describes watching the sunset from the summit the night before.

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The Yellow Backie, like "couchsurfing on a bike." 2015 YOUTUBE, LLC

RIDESHARE SCHEME

Hitchhike on a bike in Amsterdam

A team of entrepreneurs in Amsterdam has come up with perhaps the most quintessentially Dutch way to hitchhike: on a bike.

The scheme called Yellow Backie is designed with the tourist in mind, offering visitors an authentic way to the see the city and meet a local.

Hitching a ride on the back of a friend's bike is a common way for locals to get around the city.

Described as being akin to "couchsurfing on a bike," the concept invites Amsterdammers who are open to meeting new people to replace the luggage rack on the back of their bike with a yellow rack, provided for free by the bike tour and rental company.

Tourists will be able to identify participants by the distinctive yellow seat and flag down a ride by yelling, "Backie!"

Unlike a cab or Uber ride, however, the principle behind the idea is for visitors to let their driver serve as an impromptu tour guide.

The program is free and is app-free. AFP

Set up Nexus interview at land border, not airport

ON THE MOVE

Answering your Qs on hotel deals, travel ID cards and more

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada

Time to dip into the Metro mailbag and respond to some readers' questions.

How can you ensure you are getting the best deal for your hotel room?

With the number of online travel agencies, wholesalers and consolidators out there, trying to figure out who offers the best value can be overwhelming. And remember it's important to consider the best value versus the best deal because you really do get what you pay for. Your great deal may end up being the room that hasn't been renovated in 10 years that overlooks a brick wall. Or perhaps your amazingly cheap room might be at a hotel that ends up charging you exorbitant rates for your parking and breakfast. You need to evaluate all of the costs associated with the hotel you are choosing.

For the best value consider booking an accommodation package. Hotels sell their cheapest rooms to companies willing to bury the rate in the cost of a package, which could include breakfast, parking, attractions passes or other value-adds.

Thoughts on a Nexus card?

This bi-national pre-approved customs and immigration pass will help speed you through customs lines on both sides of the border. Apply online and once you are initially approved, you then go for a personal interview. Set up your application interview appointment at a land border, not the airport. The waiting list at the airport can take a long time whereas land borders can often process you within days.

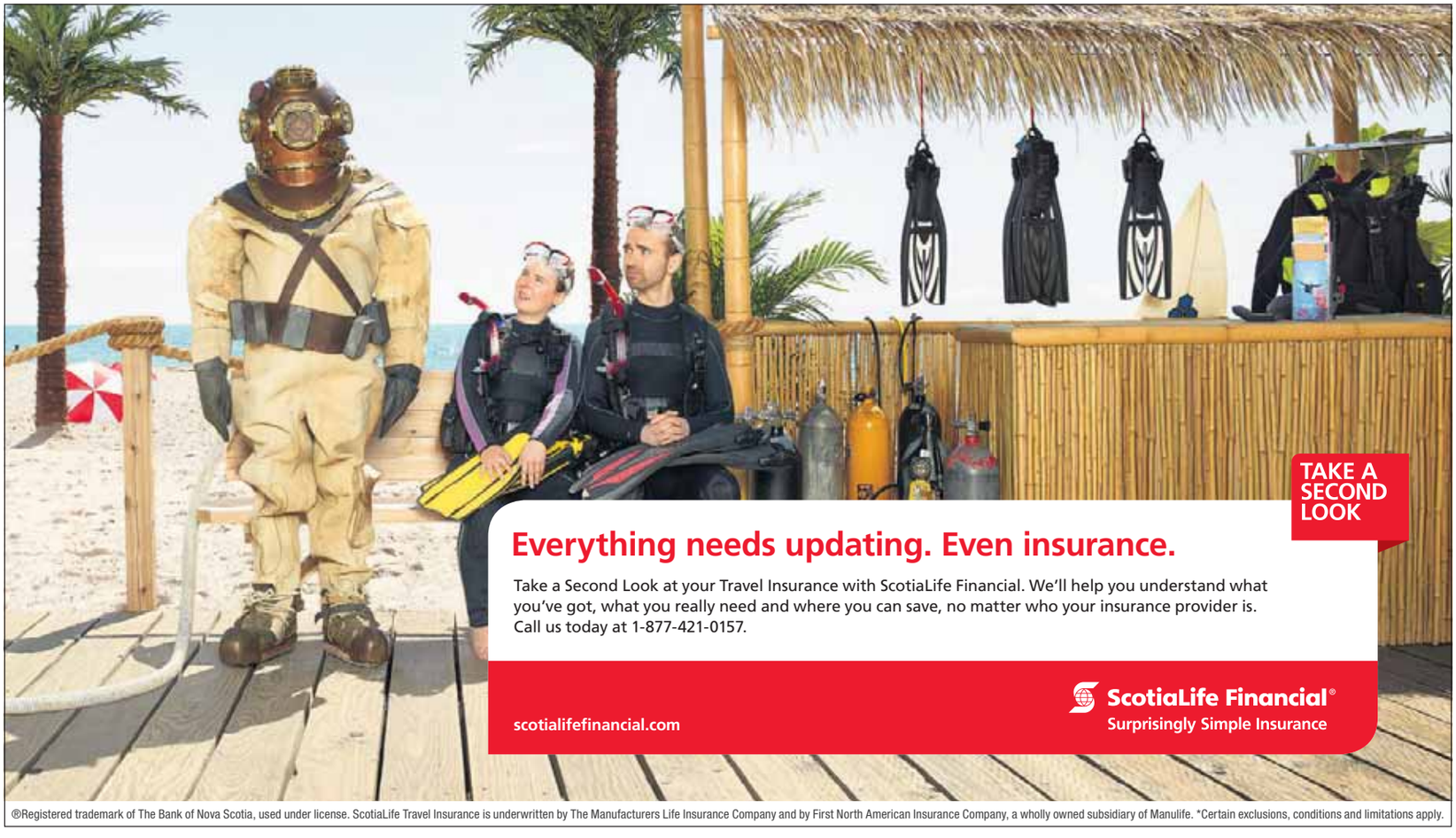
Are repositioning cruises a good deal?

When ships relocate from one part of the world to sail in another it is called a repositioning cruise. The deals can be as much as 70 per cent off the cost of a regular cruise. However, be prepared for more days at sea, potentially costly one-way flights and travel to destinations in the shoulder seasons.

What is the difference between a four- and five-star hotel in the Caribbean?

Unlike North American hotels, where stars indicate a level of quality, the star rating systems of Caribbean resorts serve to differentiate the services and amenities offered. Additionally, different tour operators use varied criteria for awarding the stars. For example, the difference between a four-star and five-star hotel may be that one has a tennis court while the other does not. So if you are a beach bum who has never picked up a racket, why not save some money and stay at the lower-rated property?

Repositioning cruises may seem like a great deal, but beware of hidden costs. ISTOCK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The NFL has received permission from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration for limited use of drones

RAPE KIT INVESTIGATION

Lawyer of Kane's accuser quits

The lawyer for a woman accusing Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane of sexual assault abruptly quit the case Thursday night, saying he's no longer comfortable representing the woman because of how her mother reported finding an evidence bag they believed once held the woman's rape kit.

Thomas Eoannou told reporters he believes there were "fabrications" in the story of how the bag was found. He added that he's no longer sure if the bag ever contained evidence from the investigation.

Thomas Eoannou THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I can only say that I don't know what's true and what's not true," Eoannou said during a hastily called news conference at his downtown Buffalo law office.

"I received the story line from the mother. And it's my position that I'm not comfortable with that version of the events."

Despite his concerns, Eoannou said he's still confident in the woman's allegations against Kane.

"I don't know how that reflects, and I don't think it does, on the night in question," Eoannou said.

The woman's mother did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Bennett family reunion in the gridiron cauldron

NFL

Brothers set to face off when Bears visit Seahawks

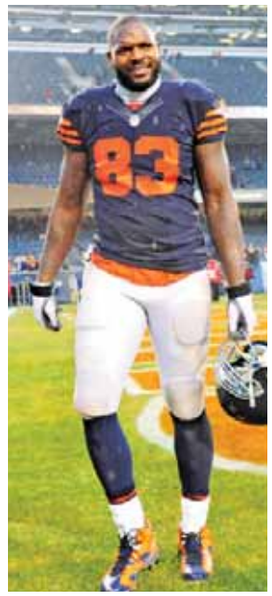
Michael Bennett dislikes playing against his brother Martellus, so much so that he nearly signed with the Chicago Bears in free agency last year to avoid having to face him again.

The Bears travel to Seattle on Sunday to face Michael's Seahawks. It's just the third time the brothers have had to play against each other in the regular season since the two entered the league — Martellus in 2008 and Michael in 2009.

"I don't like playing against my brother. It's just hard to make your mindset go against somebody that's your family," Michael said.

Michael, a defensive end, and Martellus, a tight end, always played on the same team growing up. They played together in high school and again at Texas A&M. It wasn't until Martellus' Dallas Cowboys played Michael's Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2011 that the two had to line up against each other in a game.

"We've never been two of those brothers that are super competitive against each other," Martellus said. "We've always been on the same team. So I kind of dread lining up against him, but it's just one of those things that we have to do."



Martellus Bennett of the Bears, left, and Michael Bennett of the Seahawks frequently video call each other before games and share tips on what they've seen from watching each other on TV. This Sunday, the siblings face off on opposite sides when Chicago visits Seattle. LEFT: DAVID BANKS/GETTY IMAGES; RIGHT: CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

The two met again the following season when the Buccaneers took on the New York Giants and once more in a pre-season game last year between their two current teams.

"It's kind of uncomfortable," Michael said. "You're so aggressive up front. My niece is watching the game, and how's she going to listen to her father if I drive him back for a sack? It's one of those things."

> **I kind of dread lining up against him, but it's just one of those things that we have to do.**
> Martellus Bennett

The brothers have a unique sense of humour and aren't afraid to express their opinions. While most of the players in the league are constantly worried about saying the wrong thing and protecting their image, the Bennetts are perfectly content just being themselves.

"I just think we're two of the most normal people in the NFL. I think everybody else are the weird ones," Martellus said.

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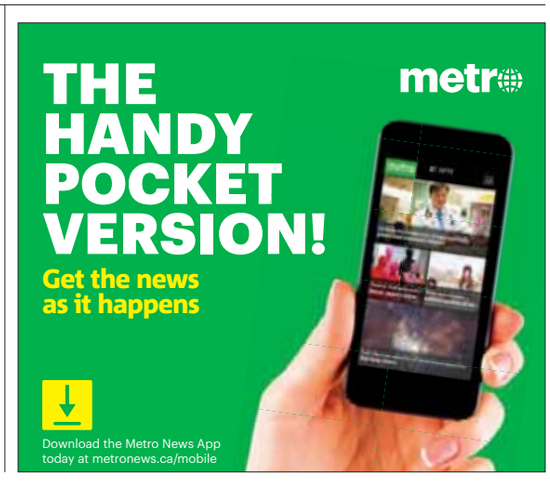


What lies ahead for the Blue Jays

MLB

After all but slaying the Yankees, team controls fate

The Toronto Blue Jays are in the American League East driver's seat. They are the favourites to win the division title and are a virtual lock to make their first playoff appearance in 22 years.

Here are five things to watch as the regular season winds down:

PRICE POSITION

The Blue Jays acquired ace David Price at the trade deadline to handle big games — especially against the New York Yankees — over the playoff push in the second half. With an 8-1 record and 1.95 earned-run average since joining Toronto, he has come as advertised.

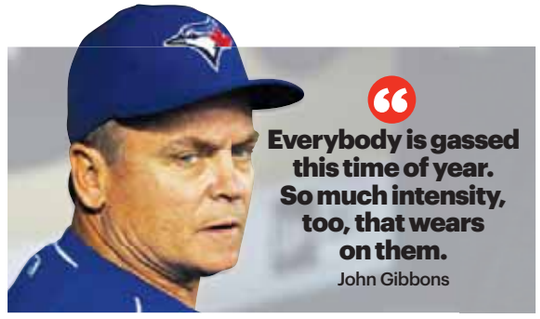
His next start is scheduled for Saturday against the visiting Tampa Bay Rays and he'll get another start next week in Baltimore.

If the Blue Jays fall into a wild-card position, Price could be used in the Oct. 6 game on five days rest. But it's much more likely they'll take the East title and start him in the American League Division Series opener on Oct. 8.

Knuckleballer R.A. Dickey will start against the Rays on Friday night and veteran southpaw Mark Buehrle will close out the homestand on Sunday.

EAST FEAST

It has been an American League East-heavy schedule for the first-place Blue Jays of late and they'll continue that trend for the remaining 10 games.



> "Everybody is gassed this time of year. So much intensity, too, that wears on them."
>
> John Gibbons

After the home schedule is completed Sunday against the Rays, it's on to Baltimore for four games before wrapping the campaign with three games at Tampa Bay.

The second-place Yankees are three games behind the Blue Jays after Thursday night's 3-2 win over the White Sox and are home for four-game sets against Chicago White Sox and Boston Red Sox before closing their season with a three-game series in Baltimore.

REST EASIER

The 162-game regular season is a long one and any time off around this time of year is precious.

The Yankees have games scheduled every day until their finale Oct. 4. The Blue Jays, who have played one more game than New York, got a break Thursday before kicking off their last home series against Tampa Bay on Friday night.

"That's got to help us, everybody is gassed this time of year," said Blue Jays manager John Gibbons. "So much intensity too, that wears on them."

POWER PLAY

Toronto's offence has cooled a bit of late but the team should still finish first in several offensive categories this season.

The Blue Jays lead the major leagues in runs scored, home runs, slugging percentage and OPS (on-base percentage plus slugging). Toronto also has three players — Josh Donaldson, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion — who have reached the 35-homer and 100-RBI plateaus.

It's only the second time in franchise history that three players have accomplished the feat in the same year.

The 1998 Blue Jays boasted a power trio that included Jose Canseco (46 homers, 107 RBIs), Carlos Delgado (38-115) and Shawn Green (35-100).

Donaldson leads the way this year with 39 homers and 120 RBIs. Bautista has 36 homers — one more than Encarnacion — and both have 105 RBIs.

ALDS PLANS

The Blue Jays have an idea of the rotation they'd like to use in the best-of-five ALDS, but they don't want to get too far ahead of themselves.

If they win the division, expect Price to work two games with Dickey and Marcus Stroman likely to get starts as well. If that happens, the Blue Jays would then have to decide whether to go with Marco Estrada or Buehrle for the remaining nod.

The ALDS is a best-of-five affair Oct. 8-14. The American League Championship Series is set for Oct. 16-24 and the World Series — also a best-of-seven series — is Oct. 27-Nov. 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Carlos Beltran watches his three-run homer at Yankee Stadium on Thursday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AL EAST

Yankees inch closer to playoff position

Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer off White Sox ace Chris Sale, leading Michael Pineda and the New York Yankees past Chicago 3-2 Thursday night in their push for a playoff spot.

After a tribute before their first home game since October great Yogi Berra died, the Yankees closed within three games of idle Toronto in the AL East. New York cut its magic number to six for clinching at least a wild-card slot.

Beltran, a post-season star throughout his career, gave the Yankees a boost to begin their final homestand of the season. He connected in the third inning for his 18th homer.

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Healthy QBs a rare sight this CFL year

FOOTBALL

Just three pivots have avoided injury during season

Bo Levi Mitchell hasn't resorted to tucking a four-leaf clover in his shoe or clipping a lucky rabbit's foot to his uniform.

Heading into Friday's game against the Blue Bombers, the Calgary Stampeders quarterback is one of only three pivots who has avoided injury and started every game for his team this season.

Despite his counterparts falling like dominoes across the CFL, Mitchell said Thursday he's not about to change his style.

"I just go out there and play the way I play football," he said, noting he missed three games last year because of injury.

Bo Levi Mitchell is one of the few CFL starting QBs who has not been disabled at some point. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I'm not going to change anything up. I'm not going to tell myself not to run more or anything like that."

Ottawa's Henry Burris has also stayed healthy this season, while backup Trevor Harris has had the reins from the get-go in Toronto with No. 1 Ricky Ray recovering from off-season shoulder surgery. Ray is back practising.

The number of injured quarterbacks has climbed every year since 2011, according to CFL statistician Steve Daniel.

Going into this weekend's action, the nine clubs have started 19 different quarterbacks because of injuries or performance, Daniel said, adding Bomber Matt Nichols is counted twice as he's started for Edmonton and Winnipeg.

That number will climb to 20 after B.C. plays this weekend, with Jonathon Jennings expected to start for the Lions in place of recently injured John Beck. It moves to 21 when Hamilton finishes its bye week and has to use a new starter for Zach Collaros, who's out for the season with a knee injury.

Daniel said in a phone interview he dug up stats going back to 2000 and a high of 22 different quarterbacks were used in 2007.

He also calculated the number of quarterbacks who specifically missed playing time because of injury and it's been rising the past five years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Metta World Peace finds peace with L.A. Lakers

The Los Angeles Lakers are giving Metta World Peace another chance.

The veteran forward resigned with Los Angeles on Thursday, agreeing to a one-year deal to resume his NBA career.

He won a championship ring with the Lakers in 2010 when he was still known as Ron Artest.

Although his play appeared to decline sharply before Los Angeles released him through the amnesty clause in July 2013, his steadfast friendship with Kobe Bryant and his ability to mentor the Lakers' talented young core apparently played roles in the club's decision to bring back the 35-year-old former troublemaker.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stenson leads Tour Championship with 63

Just getting to East Lake is the challenge for Henrik Stenson. Playing the golf course appears to be the easy part.

Two years after his wire-to-wire victory to capture the FedEx Cup, Stenson was just as dominant Thursday until he stalled at the end and had to settle for a 7-under 63 and a two-shot lead over Paul Casey in the Tour Championship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Namibians hold All Blacks to 58 at Rugby World Cup

Nobody does ruthless like New Zealand. Three of the six highest scores in Rugby World Cup history are the All Blacks'.

Another big score was predicted from a game in which they were the 77-point favourites at the Olympic Stadium on Thursday, but Namibia promised it wouldn't lose by that much and it fulfilled its promise. The Namibians lost by only 58-14, and were proud losers.

At their fifth Rugby World Cup, they're trying to win their first Cup match. Their 16-match losing streak is the longest in tournament history.

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RECIPE BLT Ranch Burgers

After hosting sunset dinner parties for friends and family, Katie Lee, co-host of The Food Network's The Kitchen, compiled her favourite recipes into the Endless Summer Cookbook released this year.

"I made these burgers for a group of friends one afternoon and they pretty much lost their minds," she says. "The ranch dressing is rich and creamy next to the beefy burger with that crispy bacon, lettuce, and tomato."

Makes 4 burgers.

Ingredients

For the dressing:
- 1 cup (240 ml) mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) buttermilk
- 2 Tbsp minced fresh chives
- 2 Tbsp minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder

For the burgers:
- 1 lb (455 g) lean ground beef
- 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 8 pieces cooked bacon, cut in half
- 1 ripe tomato, sliced
- Bibb lettuce leaves
- 4 potato buns, buttered and toasted

Directions

1. Make the dressing: Combine all the dressing ingredients and mix well.

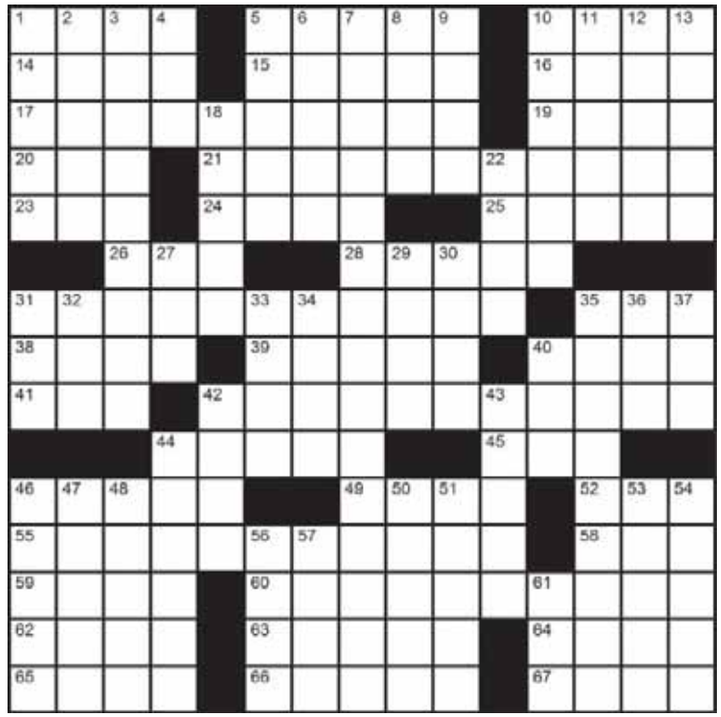
2. Make the burgers: Preheat an outdoor grill to medium-high. In a bowl, combine the beef, Worcestershire sauce, egg, salt, and pepper. Shape into four patties. Grill the patties for about 3 minutes per side for medium doneness.

3. Place each patty on a bun and top with bacon, tomato, lettuce, and a generous dollop of dressing. Serve immediately.

AFP

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Good Queen _ (Nickname for Elizabeth I, b.1533 - d.1603)
5. Jenny _ (Weight loss program)
10. Ginger cookie
14. Plant-derived gel
15. Moviedom's Mr. McDowall
16. Knitting stitch
17. Looks-like-a-lizard amphibian
19. Stewpot
20. "_ sure be nice if..."
21. Legendary marksman from Ohio (b.1860 - d.1926) who (apparently) got married in Canada (in Windsor) in 1882: 2 wds.
23. Floral necklace
24. Belonging to Jay Z's wife, fun-style
25. Ms. Aglukkaq (Canada's Environment Minister)
26. Music genre
28. Shrek's kin
31. _ Hawk (Largest hawk of North America that has some rusty plumage)
35. Authorize
38. Heroic verse
39. Reddish-rose dye
40. Automaker of Italy
41. Get the ribbon
42. Canadian businessman Kevin O'Leary's nickname for himself: 2 wds.
44. Rage: 2 wds.
45. Dance tip in ballet
46. Sandbank
49. Breakfast side order
52. Prime meridian std.
55. Skillful triumph or feat: 3 mots
58. Motor City org.
59. Stars sci.
60. Fort _, Florida
62. "From _ _ You" by The Beatles
63. Plains animal
64. Sky bear
65. Ship's front
66. Watchful
67. _. _. (Fargo's locale)

DOWN

1. Mr. Rathbone of classic movies
2. Make merry
3. Persevere: 2 wds.
4. Above Level link
5. Stretch one's neck for a better look
6. _ & The Daytonas (Surfer music band)
7. National Historic Site of Canada... Grassy homestead attraction in Saskatchewan: 3 wds.
8. Obsession, _ fixe
9. Streetside sandwich sort
10. Bicycle wheel parts
11. Void, in Venice
12. "Over the Rainbow" co-composer Harold
13. Beach: Spanish
18. Cape Breton hometown of The Rankin Family
22. Frothy quaffs
27. Married title
29. Leavin'
30. _ um die Welt (Around the world, in German)
31. Not many
32. Prefix with 'dermis'
33. Wheat _
34. Des Moines locale
35. Beach supervisor
36. Quebec tap fluid
37. Final amt.
40. Backwards
42. Blend
43. Archaic anesthetic
44. Pushcart, perhaps loaded with earth or gravel
46. Certain collectible
47. Grass sprayer
48. _ _ lunch (Not on the ball)
50. Great enthusiasm [var. sp.]
51. Fragrance
53. Dip for tortillas
54. Fine-tune
56. "Prometheus" (2012) star Idris
57. Tank
61. Horse coat hue

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will be impatient of restriction and intolerant of people who don't live up to your expectations. But be careful who you clash with — you could make some powerful enemies.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Be careful how hard you push yourself today because there is a possibility you might strain yourself if you take on too much. Know what your limits are and stay within them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The Sun in Libra does wonders for your confidence but other aspects warn you could easily overextend yourself. You have what it takes to win big but first you need to be aware of your shortcomings.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Mars encourages you to say things you may later regret. If you want to avoid unpleasant scenes further down the line you must not lose your temper.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Make sure you think before you speak or act today. Don't assume that because something is amusing to you it will be amusing to everyone else. Practical jokes are a no-no.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you are usually such a modest individual it will come as a surprise to some when you reveal your aggressive side today. If you are not getting what you deserve, make a scene. It will be effective.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will clash with someone whose views and opinions you disagree with. Don't back down. It is unlikely you will find common ground, so go all out to win the argument.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It's not often that you get up in front of other people and lay down the law but you will do so today. It annoys you to think that the answer to a major problem is obvious to you but no one else seems able to see it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The time is ripe to make a play for power. It is, of course, possible that you will go too far or expect too much but rather that than you make no effort at all.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will react badly to anyone who tries to tell you what to do, even if they have every right to point out your failings or point out the way. Try not to be quite so aggressive.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you make a mistake today it is sure to be a big one. Don't try to cover it up or shift the blame as that will make matters worse. Everyone gets it wrong now and again, even an Aquarius. It's no big deal.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Plan something enjoyable for the weekend, something that takes you out of yourself. Forget about your woes and have a really good time with your friends or your family.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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iPhone now comes in another stunning finish.

3D Touch
A revolutionary new pressure-sensitive touch interface lets you interact with your phone like never before.

iOS 9
Our most advanced and intelligent mobile operating system is even simpler, more intuitive and more fun.

Hey Siri
Now Siri is always on and waiting for your voice commands. Just say, "Hey Siri," hands-free and it's there to help.

Better Selfies
Express yourself even better with the 5MP FaceTime HD camera.

Retina Flash
The Retina HD display now doubles as a flash for taking great selfies in low light.

Stronger Glass
The strongest cover glass on any smartphone.

4 Microphones
Voice quality reaches a new level of clarity with 4 microphones.

4K Video
Shoot videos in stunning 4K resolution. That's up to four times sharper than 1080p HD.

7000 Series Aluminum
The strongest metal alloy we've ever used on an iPhone.

Faster Wi-Fi
You can now connect with Wi-Fi networks up to twice as fast as before.

2nd Generation Touch ID
Improved sensor lets you unlock iPhone even faster.

Taptic Engine
Provides realtime physical feedback for 3D Touch in the form of precise and subtle taps.

LTE Advanced
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M9 Motion Coprocessor
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iPhone 6S | Bell

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